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YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

MARY I

Inside the life and times of the much-maligned Tudor queen

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WELCOME DECEMBER 2023

Mary I with her husband, Philip. The much-maligned queen is the subject of this month's Essential Guide, which begins on page 23

Mary I is probably one of England's most controversial monarchs, a ruler who is mostly remembered for her attempts to reverse the Reformation and return the country to Catholicism. The eldest daughter – and only surviving child – of Henry VIII and his first wife Catherine of Aragon, **Mary endured a rollercoaster of a childhood, plunging from adored royal heir to disinherited bastard overnight**. But it is for her decisions as monarch, sentencing to death some 300 Protestants for their religious beliefs, that have since earned her the title of 'Bloody Mary'. For this month's Essential Guide, **we've enlisted Dr Nicola Tallis to help us explore the life and reign of Mary I** – from her familial relationships and religious fervour, to her phantom pregnancy and disastrous war with France. Turn to page 23 to get started.

Elsewhere, we take a closer look at some incredible colourised photographs of the American Civil War (*page 54*) and investigate 10 remarkable city creation myths – from the half snake, half man said to have founded Athens, to the winged warrior who reputedly founded the Peruvian city of Cusco (*page 47*).

Plus, 60 years after his unexpected death, we consider what direction the US might have taken had President John F Kennedy not been assassinated (*page 16*).

See you next month!

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

THIS MONTH'S BIG NUMBERS

17
The age of Mary Tudor when her half-sister, Princess Elizabeth, was born in 1533

51,000
The amount, in francs, paid for Frans Hals' *The Laughing Cavalier* at auction in 1865

200,000
The number of Union soldiers fighting in the American Civil War who were under the age of 18

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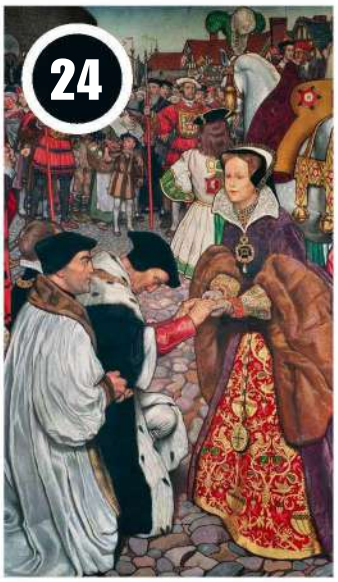

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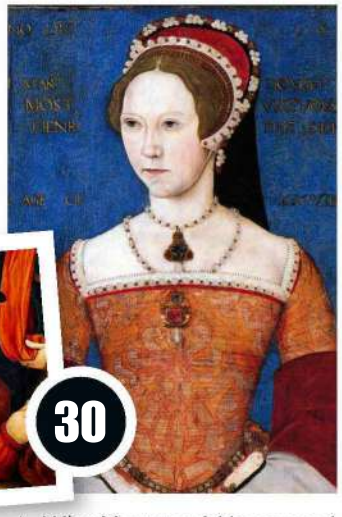

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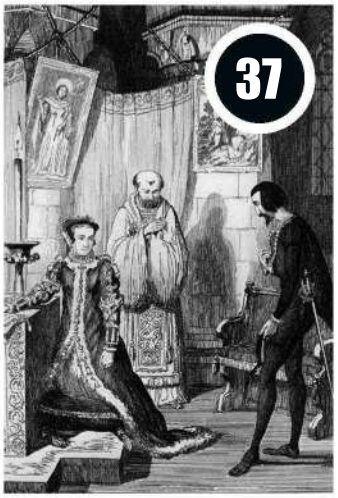

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SNAPSHOTS

c1908

NOSE TO NOSE

The *hongi*, meaning 'sharing of breath', is a cherished custom of New Zealand's indigenous people, the Māori. As these two women demonstrate, individuals gently press their noses in a meeting of spirits. This greeting holds great significance in Māori gatherings such as *pōwhiri* welcoming ceremonies. After speeches, visitors shake hands and perform the *hongi* with their hosts. This ritual involves a bow, lowered or closed eyes and the pressing of noses before stepping back. In a profound testament to Māori heritage, visiting heads of state and even members of New Zealand and Britain's shared royal family have regularly participated in the custom.

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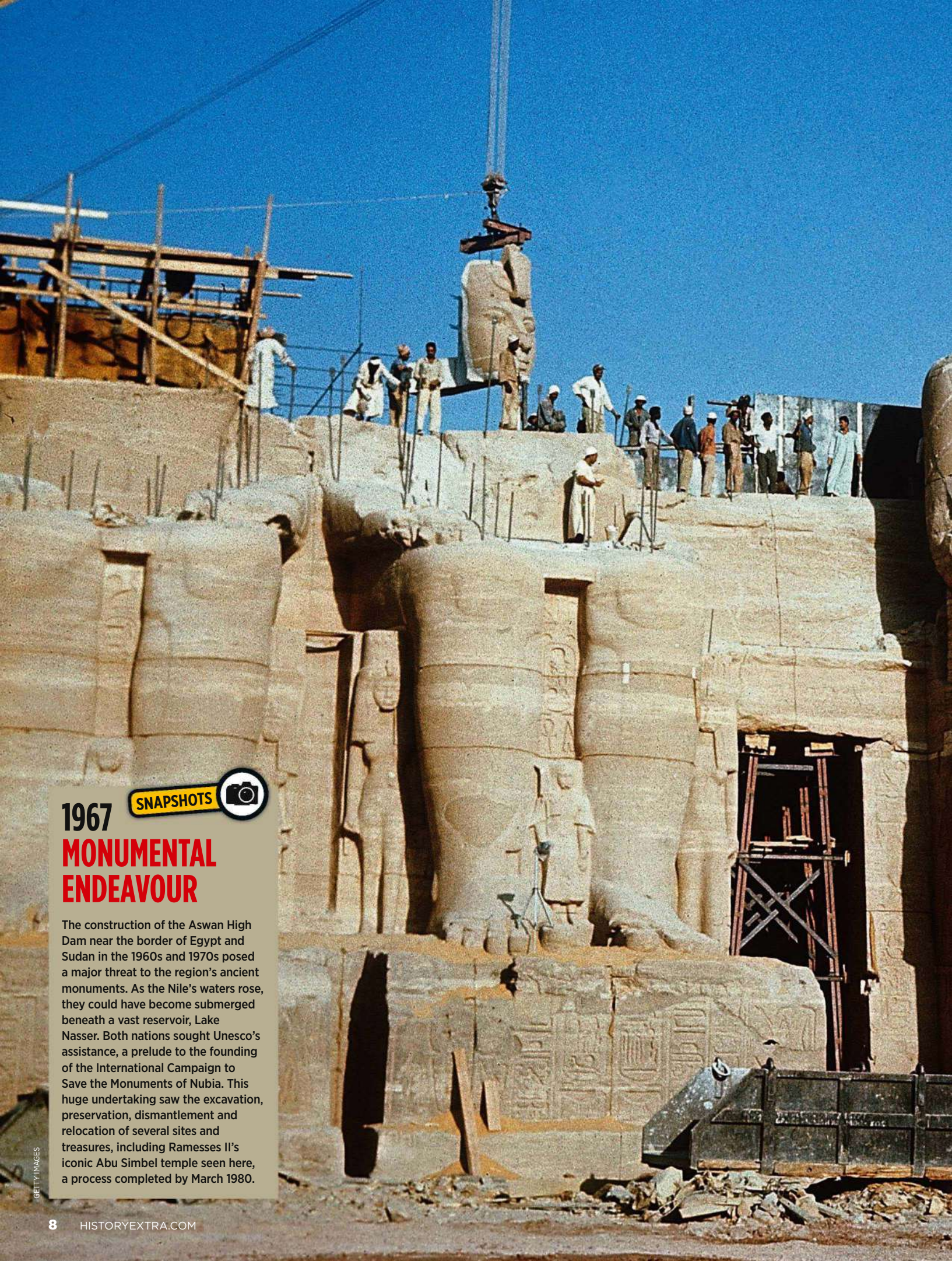

SNAPSHOTS

1967 MONUMENTAL ENDEAVOUR

The construction of the Aswan High Dam near the border of Egypt and Sudan in the 1960s and 1970s posed a major threat to the region's ancient monuments. As the Nile's waters rose, they could have become submerged beneath a vast reservoir, Lake Nasser. Both nations sought Unesco's assistance, a prelude to the founding of the International Campaign to Save the Monuments of Nubia. This huge undertaking saw the excavation, preservation, dismantlement and relocation of several sites and treasures, including Ramesses II's iconic Abu Simbel temple seen here, a process completed by March 1980.

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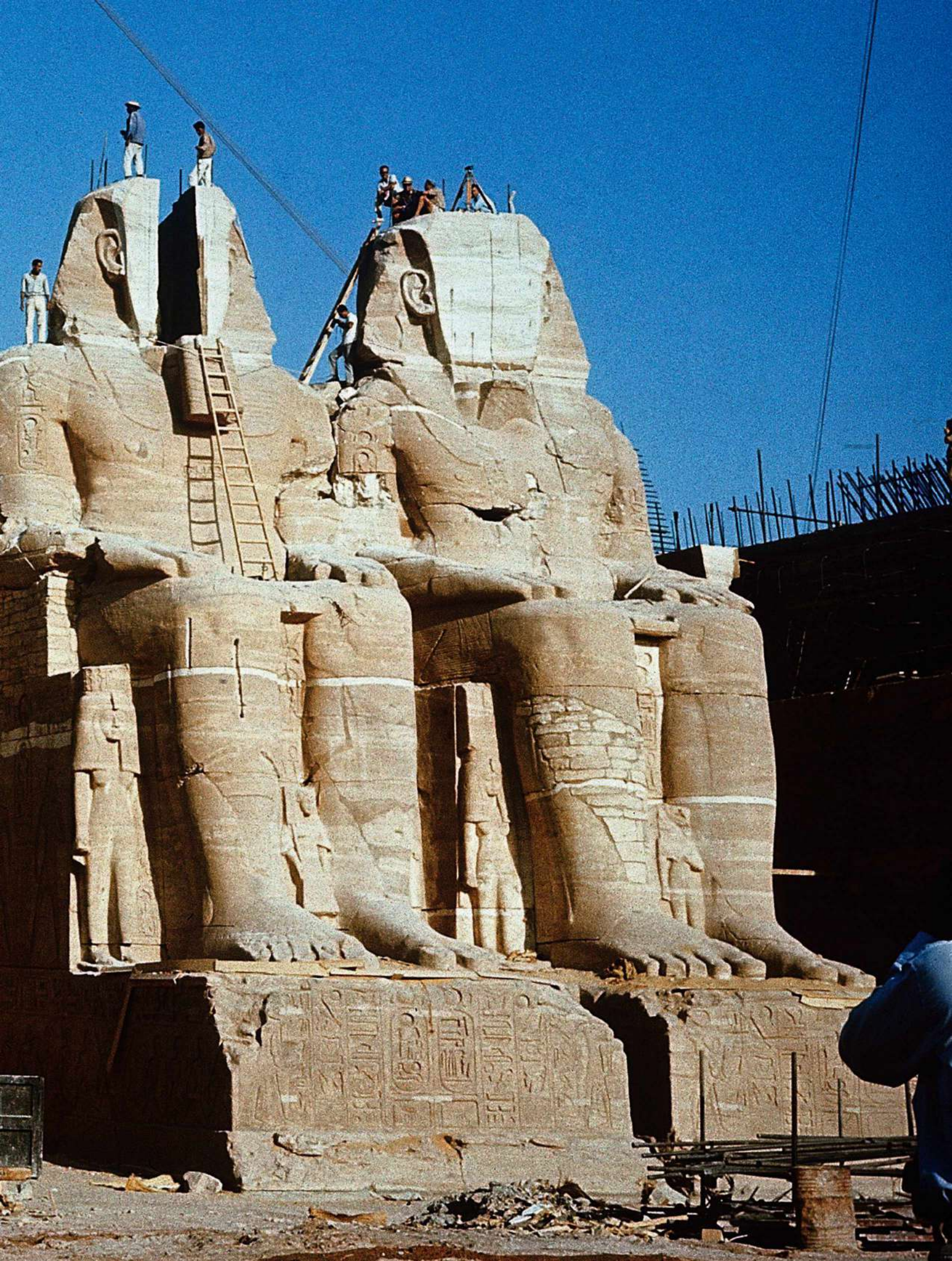

SNAPSHOTS

1933 VENETIAN SLUSHY

In December 1933, a powerful storm brought chaos to parts of Europe and submerged Venice under four feet of water. Many of the city's most beautiful buildings were flooded, rendering homes uninhabitable and leaving gondoliers helpless in the surging canals. Motorboats were able to enter Piazza San Marco, while porters waded through water to escort worshippers to the cathedral. This phenomenon, *acqua alta*, occurs mainly during the winter months in Venice, typically when high tides meet a powerful 'sirocco wind' in the Venetian Lagoon. Piazza San Marco is particularly vulnerable, as in 1933 when thawing snow exacerbated the flooding in front of St Mark's Basilica.

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THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

WE LOOK BACK AT DECEMBER'S KEY ANNIVERSARIES

16 DECEMBER 1773
BOSTON REBELS DUMP TEA INTO THE SEA

Weeks after the arrival of the tea ship *Dartmouth* in Boston, Massachusetts, tensions between Britain and its American colonies are at an all-time low. Protesters against the Townshend Duties, imposed from London to fund the colonies, demand the ship vacate the harbour without paying the taxes due on its cargo. An edgy atmosphere engulfs Boston, and on 16 December, thousands of Bostonians gather at the Old South Meeting House, where Samuel Adams – a fierce opponent of British rule – stokes local anger. That evening, a group of men, some disguised as Native Americans, board the *Dartmouth* and two other ships, before dumping hundreds of tea chests into the harbour in an act of protest. The future second president of the US, John Adams, notes, "It must have so important consequences, and so lasting, that I can't but consider it as an epocha in history."

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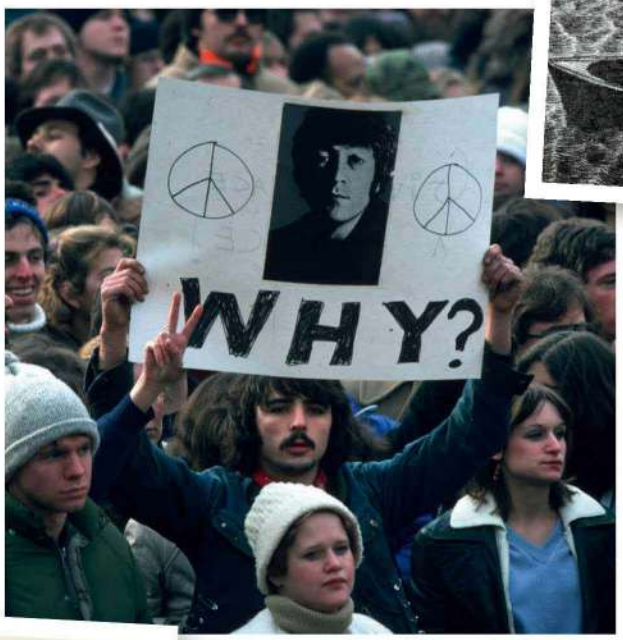
8 DECEMBER 1980
JOHN LENNON IS MURDERED BY ONE OF HIS FANS

Shortly before 6pm, John Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono, leave their apartment at the Dakota Building, New York City, to head for the recording studio. Outside, Lennon stops to sign autographs and scribbles his signature on a copy of his latest album, *Double Fantasy*, for a 25-year-old fan named Mark David Chapman.

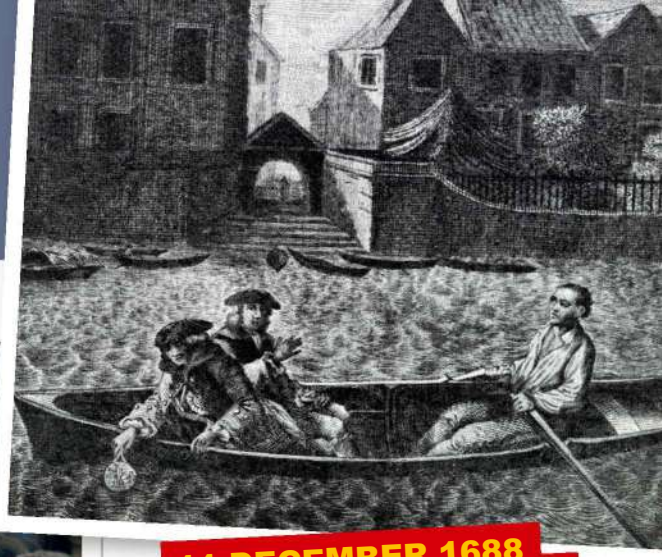
Returning home later that evening, Lennon emerges from his limousine. As he walks through the Dakota's archway entrance, shots ring out. Chapman drops his weapon as Lennon lies bleeding on the ground. When the police arrive, Chapman is holding a copy of JD Salinger's novel of disaffected youth, *The Catcher in the Rye*.



3 DECEMBER 1926
AGATHA CHRISTIE VANISHES

Flushed with success following the release of her latest novel, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, 36-year-old writer Agatha Christie becomes the subject of a mystery worthy of her own imagination.

After kissing her daughter goodnight on the evening of 3 December, Christie disappears from her Berkshire home, sending the press into a frenzy. A thousand police officers are deployed, volunteers charter aeroplanes to scour the countryside, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle even consults a medium. Finally, on 14 December, Christie is recognised at a hotel in Harrogate, having checked in as 'Tressa Neele'. In a final twist, it comes to light that her husband is having an affair with a woman bearing the same surname.



11 DECEMBER 1688
JAMES VII AND II TRIES TO FLEE LONDON

Five weeks after his son-in-law William of Orange lands in Devon, vowing to protect the Protestant faith, the Catholic James VII and II tries to flee London and follow his wife and son into exile in France. Absconding via the Thames, the monarch hurls the Great Seal of the Realm into its waters – an act that Parliament will later interpret as evidence of abdication.

4 DECEMBER 1872
SAILORS FIND A MYSTERIOUS 'GHOST SHIP'

In the North Atlantic, a crew member on board the Canadian brigantine *Dei Gratia* spots another ship moving unsteadily in the distance. After efforts to hail the vessel receive no response, the *Dei Gratia*'s captain, David Reed Morehouse, sends his mates to investigate.

The men soon recognise it as the US merchant ship *Mary Celeste*, but nobody is aboard – despite the fact that the crew's personal belongings lay undisturbed. Speculation about their fate runs rampant, but the mystery of the *Mary Celeste* will forever remain unsolved.

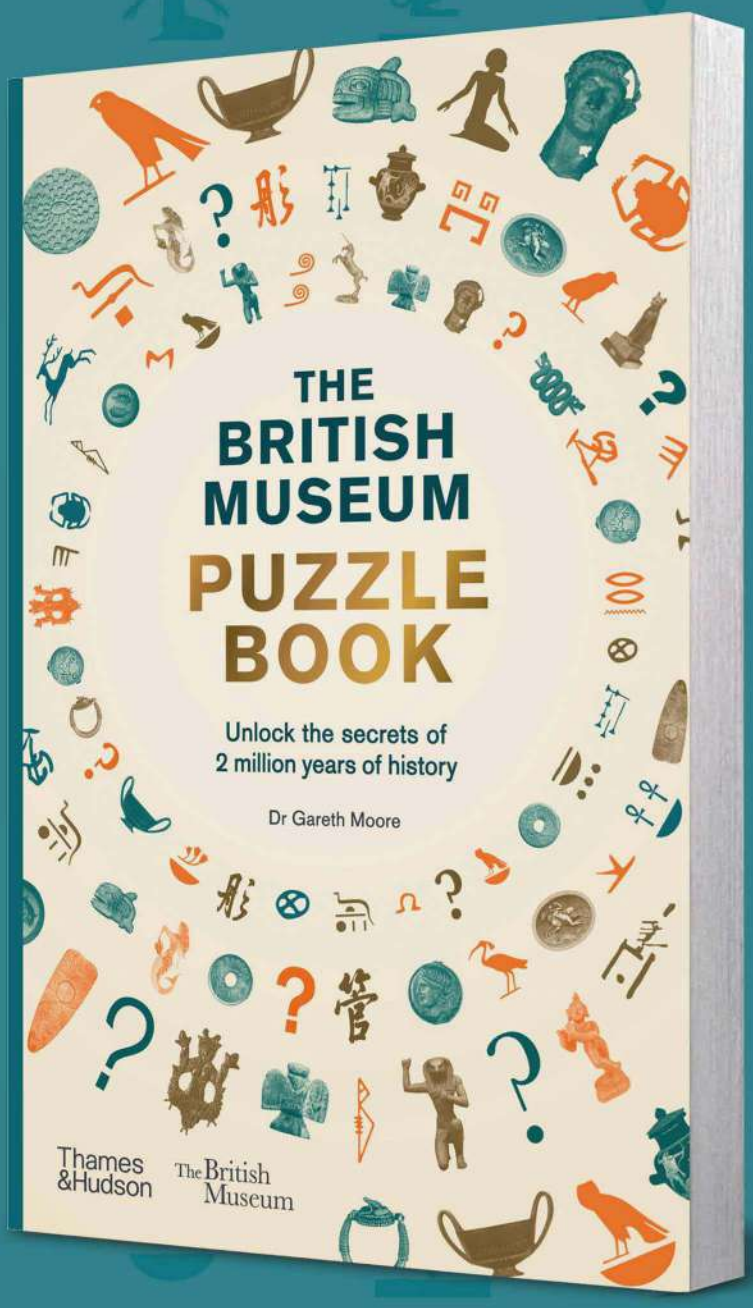
DIED: 8 DEC 1793
MADAME DU BARRY

Jeanne Bécu, Comtesse du Barry, is beheaded by guillotine during the French Revolution's bloody Reign of Terror. The 50-year-old had risen from obscurity to become the last mistress of Louis XV – her lavish lifestyle and charm bringing her both power and notoriety at court.

BORN: 9 DEC 1608
JOHN MILTON

The poet, famous for the epic *Paradise Lost*, is born in London. A devout Puritan and a republican during the Civil Wars, he will not only become known as a champion of civil liberties, but be heralded as one of the greatest figures in English literature.

UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF 2 MILLION YEARS OF HISTORY



Packed with word games, riddles and conundrums

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LIFE HACKS FROM HISTORY

JUSTIN POLLARD SHARES THE PAST'S BEST (AND WORST) SELF-HELP ADVICE

LIFE HACK #07

Keep a secret

Justin Pollard reveals what the past can tell us about successful strategies for keeping schtum and for preventing confidential matters from getting into the public domain. Anyway, best not to rabbit on…

As we all know, the best way to get news out is to tell someone it's a secret. Somehow, everyone will soon know. But what can history teach us about genuinely keeping things secret?

Firstly, we should choose a credible secret. Mary Toft claimed to have been startled by a rabbit during her pregnancy in 1726 and had ever since been giving birth to rabbits. Eminent medical professionals supported her story and made her a great *cause célèbre* – until someone pointed out that people can't give birth to rabbits and she was exposed as a fraud.

Quite what Mary was expecting to gain from breeding rabbits remains unclear, but it was a lot of effort for a small reward. So if you're going to have a secret, make it something everyone wants. Tudor fraudster Doll Philips claimed the fairy queen had secretly explained to her how to find gold. While everyone was out looking for the promised fortune, she would rob their houses. Shakespeare created scenes with fake fairy queens based on her.

The Chevalier d'Éon (1728–1810) was a French diplomat, spy and soldier who spent much of his life living as a woman

RELIGIOUS FRAUD

The next thing we should consider is hiding our secret. There are two schools of thought here. Firstly, conceal the secret. Secondly, don't. The latter course was favoured by the medieval prior of Leominster Church. He installed his secret lover in a gallery in the upper reaches of the building, claiming her to be divinely inspired. As proof, communion wafers would 'fly' from his hand to her during mass – with the aid of a wire.

If we are to be less brazen, we might follow the example of Christopher Clayton Hutton. 'Clutty' worked for MI9, a branch of military intelligence, and was involved in training men to escape from PoW camps and to evade capture during World War II. He created an escape pack that included a compass hidden in a button, maps printed on parachute silk and a version of Monopoly that doubled as a prison-break kit.

Having brilliantly hidden our secret, we must be careful! It would be really fun to let others in on it, but this can have dangerous consequences. Lady Grange was trapped in an unhappy marriage, so threatened to reveal that her husband was involved in the Jacobite Rising in 1715 if he didn't release her. Instead he had her kidnapped and moved to a number of different remote islands while holding a fake funeral for her back in Edinburgh. She died alone and abandoned on Skye in 1745.

YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS…

Of course, when you do let someone in on your secret, there's no guarantee you'll be believed. Serbian Dušan 'Tricycle' Popov acted as a double-agent for the British during World War II, but was known as something of a playboy. When he arrived in the US, FBI director J Edgar Hoover was so horrified by Popov's behaviour that he dismissed intelligence reports that might have helped to prevent the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Going hand in hand with deciding who we tell is the most important thing about secrets – not letting them be found out. People don't like being kept in the dark. After the androgynous spy Chevalier d'Éon published secret information on Louis XV, he went into hiding disguised as a woman. The king's successor, Louis XVI, later gave permission for d'Éon to return to home, but only if he spent the rest of his life as a woman.

Finally, if we avoid the improbable, the brazen, the untrustworthy and the unbelievable, we might just get away with it. No one took any notice of secretary Melita Norwood, who for years worked for a UK military research organisation involved in the production of nuclear weapons. Surrounded by secrets, she had a particular secret of her own – she was a KGB spy and was only discovered when she was 87 years old, 27 years after she had retired.

JUSTIN POLLARD is an acclaimed historian and writer. As a historical consultant, he has worked on more than 50 film and TV projects, from *Elizabeth* and *Mulan* to the BBC quiz show *QI*

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WHAT IF... PRESIDENT JOHN F KENNEDY HADN'T BEEN ASSASSINATED?

Few events in US history have caused the collective shock and grief that the nation experienced upon hearing of President Kennedy's death in 1963. Sixty years on, **Nige Tassell** asks **Professor Mark White** how America may have been different had Kennedy lived

There is no denying that the assassination of President John F Kennedy on 22 November 1963 brought the United States to an unexpected junction. The calm, strong leadership he'd shown in the near-three years of his administration – most notably in winning the ultimate blinking contest with Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 – was abruptly extinguished that day in downtown Dallas and the country would endure very turbulent times for the rest of the decade. But had a bullet not ended Kennedy's life prematurely, what shape would those subsequent years have taken, both for the US and the world?

The first conundrum to answer is whether Kennedy would have won the presidential election of 1964. Mark White, professor of history at Queen Mary University of London and author of *Kennedy: A Cultural History of an American Icon* (Bloomsbury, 2013), explains that Kennedy's re-election "was not a foregone conclusion, but it was highly likely. The biggest electoral problem that he had was the fact that, due to his strong, commendable stance on civil rights in June 1963, in which he had given a great television speech to the American people, his popularity in the South had decreased markedly during the last five months of his life.

"But he had generally been a very popular president. Indeed, he still has the highest average approval ratings of any president in modern American history. In addition, he had enjoyed successes, notably his superb leadership during the Cuban Missile Crisis, that had bolstered his credibility."

Professor White is also adamant that Kennedy's numerous extra-marital affairs wouldn't have presented an obstacle to re-election. "It was an unwritten media rule at the time not to report on the private life of a president, a rule which Kennedy understood and relied upon."

IN CONTEXT

In John F Kennedy, many Americans thought they had a progressive, pragmatic president who would occupy the White House for most of the 1960s. Strong on the international stage and forward-thinking domestically, the country largely felt it had elected a true leader. After his assassination by former US marine Lee Harvey Oswald on 22 November 1963, the nation was plunged into something of an existential crisis, traumatised by an extended conflict in Vietnam, facing great social upheaval domestically, and still feeling the chill of the ongoing Cold War. How would the decade have panned out had Kennedy served two terms of office?

Kennedy smiles at well-wishers as his motorcade passes through Dallas on 22 November 1963. Minutes after this picture was taken, he was shot dead

SHIFTING ALLEGIANCES

After Lyndon B Johnson succeeded Kennedy, the Texan declared that the passing of his predecessor's civil rights bill would be a fitting way to commemorate the late president. Until his death, the passing of Kennedy's bill was by no means a given, but Johnson, more adept and experienced when dealing with Congress, ensured it was enshrined into law the following summer, one of the most significant pieces of legislation in US history.

"It's a fine judgment to make," explains Professor White, "but my view is that Kennedy would have just succeeded in securing the bill's passage. It would have constituted the great domestic-policy achievement of his presidency." But, if he hadn't, what would have been the consequences?

"Perhaps the Democratic Party would have retained more support from the South as the 1960s and 1970s unfolded. The defection of the South from the Democratic to the Republican Party was a key factor as to why the liberal consensus established in the 1930s during Franklin D Roosevelt's presidency was replaced by a conservative consensus, beginning with Richard Nixon's election in 1968 and culminating in the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980."

The direction of the Cold War is another subject to consider had Kennedy served two terms as president. Following the tension of the Cuban Missile Crisis, he definitely sought to thaw relations with the Soviet Union. Where might this have taken the world over a full eight years in the White House? "The experience of the Cuban Missile Crisis

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changed Kennedy. It gave him a deeper understanding of the dangers of the nuclear age, and what followed in 1963 was his remarkable American University speech in June in which he called on the American people to change their attitude towards the Russian people, along with the Test-Ban Treaty and the establishment of a 'hotline' between the White House and the Kremlin for rapid communication in any future crises.

"He did not go from being a Cold Warrior to a peacenik – he still believed the Cold War was ongoing and the communist challenge was real. However, he was determined to use diplomacy to make the world safer and the United States more secure."

FATAL ESCALATION

To what degree Kennedy would have used diplomacy rather than military engagement in Vietnam is, as Professor White ponders, a moot point. "Avoiding war might well have required some sort of diplomatic arrangement, and Kennedy – in his dismissal of French leader Charles de Gaulle's call for neutralisation in Vietnam – showed no inclination towards such a deal. Also, he did escalate the United States' involvement in Vietnam. There were only a few hundred US military personnel in South Vietnam when he became president, but more than 16,000 at the time of his assassination."

ABOVE: **The president escalated America's involvement in Vietnam – but he had started to withdraw military personnel before he died**

TOP LEFT: **Protesters show their support for Kennedy at an anti-war rally during the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962**

DID YOU KNOW?

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

The most complete footage of Kennedy's assassination, unintentionally captured on a home movie camera by Abraham Zapruder, was sold to *Life* magazine for $150,000. After Zapruder's death it was sold back to his family for $1.

"HE DID NOT GO FROM BEING A COLD WARRIOR TO A PEACENIK. HE BELIEVED THE COMMUNIST CHALLENGE WAS STILL REAL"

However, shortly before he was killed, Kennedy authorised the withdrawal of 1,000 military personnel from the region. Was this a sign of his opposition to being drawn into the kind of conflict that would later fatally fracture Johnson's presidency? "Kennedy was more capable than Johnson was of rejecting advice from the generals and other hard-liners to escalate and fight a war," concludes White. "The likelihood is that JFK would have avoided going to war in Vietnam. He was generally cautious as a politician and wouldn't have put his presidency on the line."

GET HOOKED

LISTEN

Professor Mark White will be discussing President John F Kennedy's legacy on an upcoming episode of the *HistoryExtra* podcast. Find it online at *historyextra.com/podcast*

NEXT MONTH

What if... Charles V had gone to war with Henry VIII?

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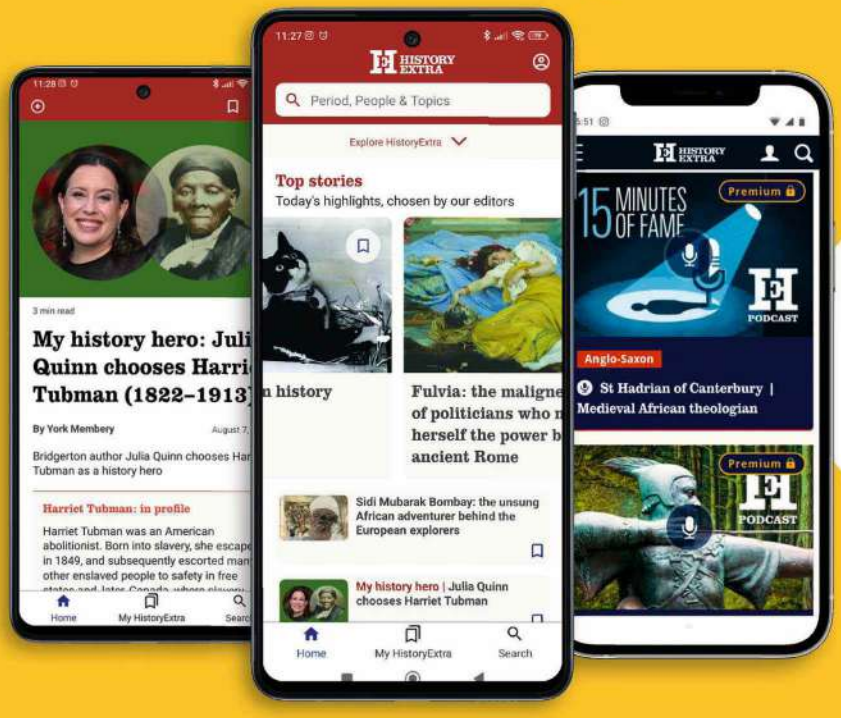

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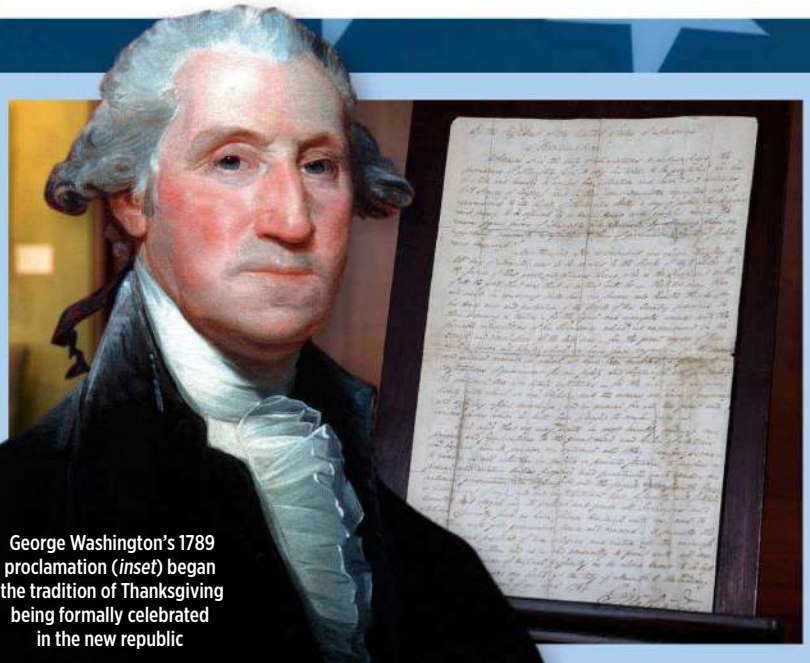
7 THINGS YOU (PROBABLY) DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING

Was turkey always dish of the day? We bring you key facts about the history of America's favourite holiday...

1 THANKSGIVING'S BEGINNINGS ARE STILL DEBATED

Tradition has it that the first Thanksgiving – a celebration of good harvest – took place in 1621, when English Pilgrims at Plymouth Plantation in Massachusetts shared a meal with their Native American neighbours. However, the late historian Michael Gannon argued that the first Thanksgiving celebration in North America actually took place half a century earlier, in Florida. On 8 September 1565, following a religious service, Spaniards shared a communal meal with local indigenous people.

Was the first Thanksgiving celebrated in Florida rather than in Massachusetts?



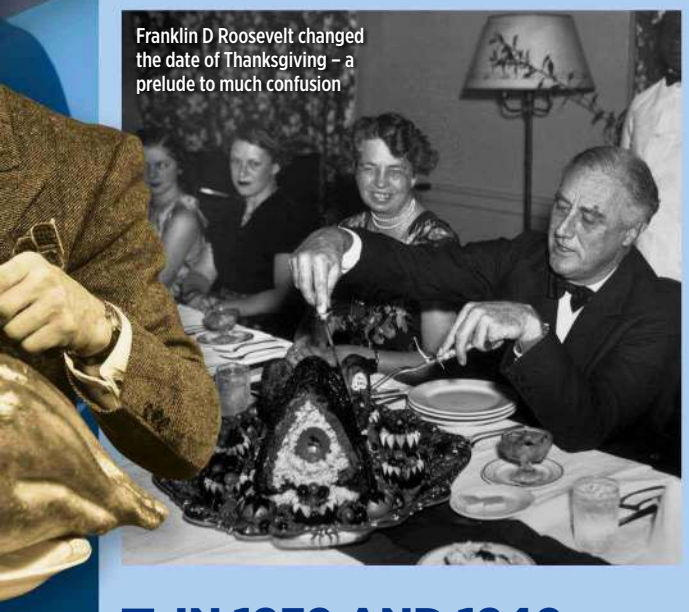
George Washington's 1789 proclamation (*inset*) began the tradition of Thanksgiving being formally celebrated in the new republic

GETTY IMAGES X7, ALAMY X3

2 THANKSGIVING HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

According to the US National Archives, on 28 September 1789 the first Federal Congress passed a resolution asking that the president of the United States recommend to the nation a day of thanksgiving. A few days later, George Washington issued a proclamation naming Thursday 26 November 1789 as a "Day of Public Thanksgiving" – the first time Thanksgiving was celebrated under the new constitution.

The dates of Thanksgiving celebrations varied as subsequent presidents came and went, and it wasn't until Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Proclamation – issued in the midst of the Civil War – that Thanksgiving was regularly commemorated each year on the last Thursday of November.



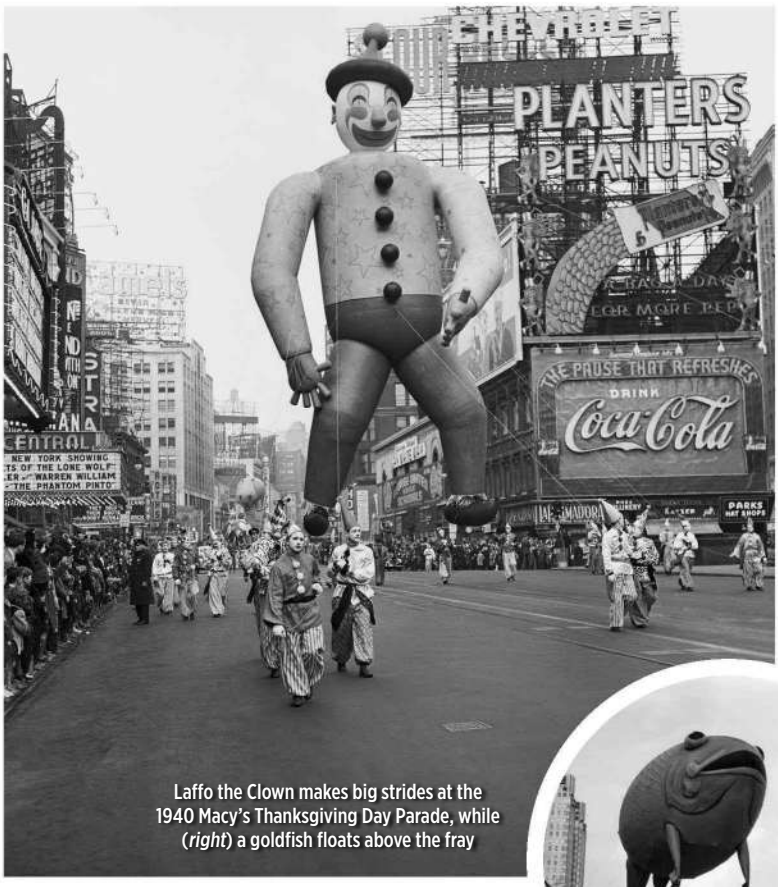
Franklin D Roosevelt changed the date of Thanksgiving – a prelude to much confusion

3 IN 1939 AND 1940 THANKSGIVING WAS CELEBRATED TWICE

In 1939, with the last Thursday in November falling on the last day of the month, President Franklin D Roosevelt became concerned that the shortened Christmas shopping season might have a negative effect on the economy. Roosevelt therefore issued a presidential proclamation moving Thanksgiving to the second to last Thursday of November.

Twenty-three states, plus the District of Columbia, issued similar proclamations, but the remaining states either chose to stick with the original date or adopt both. There was a similarly mixed picture the following year, when Roosevelt declared that Thanksgiving would be held on 21 November, as opposed to the 'late' date of 28 November.

To end the confusion, on 6 October 1941 Congress set a fixed date for the holiday: it passed a joint resolution declaring the fourth Thursday in November to be the legal Thanksgiving Day.



Laffo the Clown makes big strides at the 1940 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, while (*right*) a goldfish floats above the fray

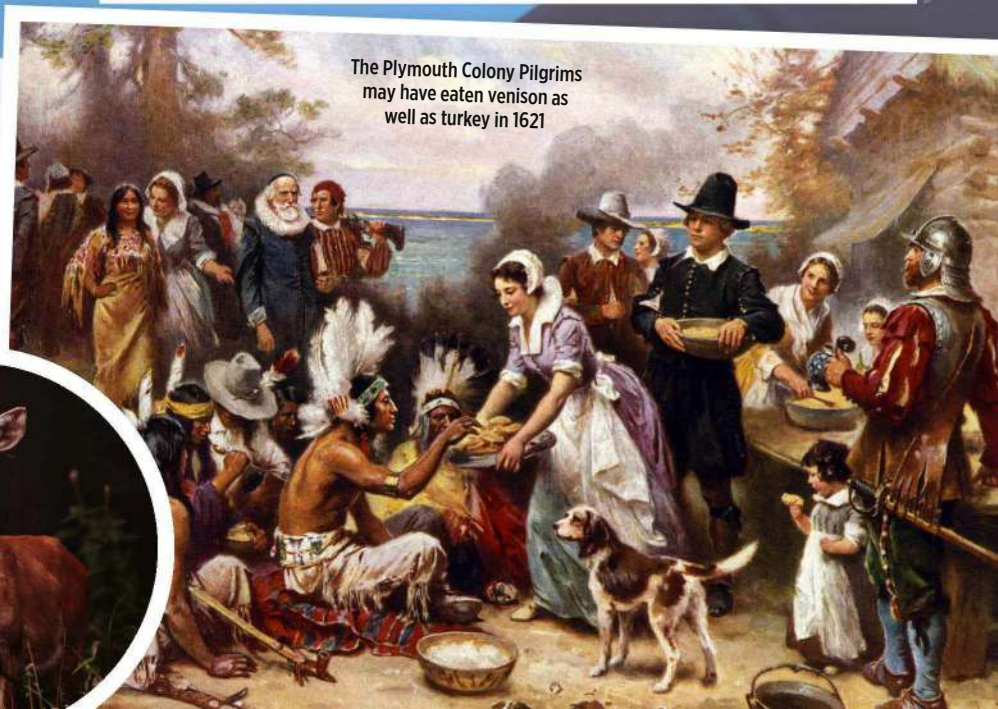
4 ELEPHANTS WERE ONCE PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, which is televised nationally on NBC, has been marching since 1924. That year, the department store's president, Herbert Strauss, organised a six-mile procession from Harlem to the Macy's store in Herald Square.

The parade featured animals – including elephants – from the Central Park Zoo, and was more than double the length it is today. For the purposes of television filming, the route was later reduced to 2.5 miles.

5 TURKEY HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN THE MAIN COURSE AT THANKSGIVING

While turkey is today the bird of choice for Thanksgiving dinners across the United States, this has not always been the case. For the first Thanksgiving in 1621, Native Americans killed five deer as a gift for the colonists, meaning that venison would have also likely been a part of the menu that day.



The Plymouth Colony Pilgrims may have eaten venison as well as turkey in 1621

President Richard Nixon pardons a turkey as part of Thanksgiving celebrations

6 ONE OR TWO LUCKY – AND THANKFUL – TURKEYS RECEIVE A PRESIDENTIAL REPRIEVE

On Thanksgiving, the president of the United States 'pardons' one or two hand-selected turkeys, sending them out to safe places where they can live out the rest of their days. But, contrary to popular belief, George HW Bush was not the first president to grant such a pardon.

According to the White House, the tradition was started by Abraham Lincoln, when his son Tad begged him to write a presidential pardon for the bird meant for the family's Christmas table, arguing it had as much right to live as anyone. Humouring his son, Lincoln complied and the turkey survived.

GETTY IMAGES X2

A fan shows her support at the Detroit Lions' annual Thanksgiving game in 2011

7 AMERICAN FOOTBALL PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR MANY

Every Thanksgiving, millions of sports fans tune in to watch the Detroit Lions play American football. The tradition dates to 1934, when the team took on the undefeated Chicago Bears, who were managed by the legendary George Halas. Despite losing the inaugural game, the Lions have played football every Thanksgiving since, except between 1939 and 1944. In more recent decades, two other National Football League (NFL) fixtures have taken place on the same day, one of them involving the Dallas Cowboys.

GET HOOKED

READ

Historian Dr James Evans explores the mythology of the *Mayflower* – the ship that transported Pilgrims from England to the New World in 1620 – at *historyextra.com/mayflower-myths*

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

MARY I

Bloodthirsty tyrant or misunderstood trailblazer? Delve into the life of the Tudor monarch who continues to divide opinion

PODCAST

Dr Nicola Tallis discusses Mary I in the first episode of our new podcast series, *Life of the Week*. Listen in full at *historyextra.com/lifeoftheweek*

24 The life of Mary I
Get to grips with the key dates in Mary's life and reign with our handy timeline of events

26 Everything you wanted to know about Mary I
Dr Nicola Tallis answers some of the biggest questions about the Tudor queen and her rule

30 A troubled childhood
We look at the impact that Mary's early years had on her political and religious beliefs

32 Mary and her stepmothers
Dr Valerie Schutte examines the relationships between Mary and her father's many wives

37 The phantom pregnancy
Professor Carole Levin reveals how Mary's inability to produce an heir affected her rule

40 6 moments that shaped Mary's reign
From a Protestant uprising to her disastrous marriage to Philip II of Spain, we examine the challenges that Mary faced during her time on the throne

44 Opinion
Dr Nicola Tallis reveals why she believes the Tudor monarch has been unfairly maligned

45 Get hooked
Take your knowledge of Mary I further with our pick of the best books and podcast episodes to explore next

HISTORICAL CONSULTANT FOR THIS MONTH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE

DR NICOLA TALLIS
is an acclaimed historian and author, whose books include *Crown of Blood: The Deadly Inheritance of Lady Jane Grey* (Michael O'Mara Books, 2016) and the forthcoming *Young Elizabeth: Princess. Prisoner. Queen* (Michael O'Mara Books, 2024).

GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X1

THE LIFE OF MARY I

18 FEB 1516

▼ Mary is born to King Henry VIII of England and Catherine of Aragon at Greenwich Palace. She is baptised there two days later.

OCT 1518

Major European powers sign the Treaty of London and two-year-old Mary is betrothed to the French dauphin. The betrothal will be broken off in 1521 and Mary (aged six) will be contracted to marry her much older cousin, Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor.

1525

▲ Henry VIII names Mary Princess of Wales (the first female holder of the title in her own right), although she may never have been formally invested as such.

1531

▶ Henry VIII finally cuts ties with Catherine, having already begun proceedings to have their marriage annulled. Meanwhile, the Tudor king continues in his efforts to woo one of Catherine's ladies-in-waiting, Anne Boleyn.

19 JUL 1553

▼ Having decamped to Framlingham Castle in Suffolk, Mary rallies the local gentry to her cause. She stages a successful coup d'état that ends Jane's brief, disputed reign (*depicted below*).

6 JUL 1553

After disowning his half-sisters and designating Lady Jane Grey as his successor, Edward VI dies aged 15. The Duke of Northumberland, whose son is married to Jane, moves to thwart Mary's efforts to claim the throne for herself.

15 JAN 1549

Parliament passes the Act of Uniformity, banning the Catholic mass and imposing the Book of Common Prayer – something Mary openly defies. She appeals to her cousin, the Holy Roman Emperor, to exert diplomatic pressure on her behalf.

28 JAN 1547

▲ Henry VIII dies at the Palace of Whitehall and his son accedes the throne as Edward VI.

3 AUG 1553

▼ Mary enters London in a triumphal procession, accompanied by Elizabeth.

1 OCT 1553

▶ Mary becomes the first queen regnant of England to be crowned in a coronation at Westminster Abbey. During the slightly modified ceremony, she accepts the full regalia and sacral role of a male monarch.

FEB 1554

A Protestant insurrection led by Sir Thomas Wyatt over Mary's plan to marry Philip of Spain (later Philip II), the son of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, is crushed. Mary's wedding to Philip ultimately goes ahead on 25 July.

NOV 1554

Anti-papal legislation passed since 1529 is repealed. The persecution of Protestant 'heretics', which will leave around 300 dead within three years, begins – earning the queen the nickname 'Bloody Mary'.

GETTY IMAGES X9, ALAMY X7

Explore the twists and turns in the life of England's first crowned queen regnant, whose burning convictions and steadfast pursuit of her birthright reshaped the kingdom

WORDS: DANNY BIRD

JAN 1533

▲ A pregnant Anne Boleyn marries Henry in a secret ceremony at Whitehall.

23 MAY 1533

The archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, declares the marriage between Mary's parents to be null and void and Catherine is stripped of the title of queen. Anne Boleyn is crowned queen at Westminster Abbey on 1 June.

7 SEP 1533

▼ Anne gives birth to a daughter (the future Elizabeth I) in Greenwich.

DEC 1533

Mary is moved to Hatfield in Hertfordshire to join her half-sister. In 1534, Parliament passes the Act of Succession, officially rendering Mary illegitimate and thus no longer a princess.

1544

▲ The Succession to the Crown Act restores Mary and Elizabeth to the line of succession after Edward and his heirs.

12 OCT 1537

◄ Henry VIII and Jane Seymour's son, Edward (*depicted left*), is born. Jane dies 12 days later and Mary acts as chief mourner at the funeral.

JUN 1536

Mary succumbs to pressure and writes a letter acknowledging the annulment of her parents' marriage, her own illegitimacy, and Henry's position as supreme head of the Church of England.

MAY 1536

Anne Boleyn is executed and Henry VIII marries his third wife, Jane Seymour. Elizabeth is declared illegitimate soon after.

7 JAN 1536

▼ Catherine of Aragon dies in exile at Kimbolton Castle. Mary is denied permission to attend her mother's funeral.

1556

▲ Mary becomes queen consort of Spain upon the accession of her husband. Thomas Cranmer (*depicted above*), is burned at the stake in Oxford for heresy.

1557

▼ Philip returns to England to persuade Mary to wage war on France.

JAN 1558

The French capture Calais, England's last footing on the Continent. Popular discontent grows.

17 NOV 1558

▶ Mary I dies at St James's Palace, aged 42, and is later interred in Westminster Abbey. With no child to succeed her, the throne passes to her half-sister, who reigns as Elizabeth I. ⊙

ON THE PODCAST

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT MARY I

Dr Nicola Tallis answers key questions about the life and legacy of England's first queen regnant

Q: What was Mary's early childhood like?

A: Mary was born on 18 February 1516 at Greenwich Palace, the only surviving child of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. She had a very happy childhood for the first few years of her life and was doted on by her parents, particularly her mother. The sorrow that Catherine of Aragon felt upon losing four pregnancies upon Mary's birth must surely have intensified the love she felt towards her only daughter. She did her utmost to ensure that Mary was well-educated and cared for, and took a hand in Mary's education herself.

Mary wouldn't have spent a great deal of time with her father, Henry, but he showered her with adoration and gifts and seems to have loved her very much. And in 1525, when she was nine years old, Mary was sent to Ludlow in the Welsh Marches, effectively to learn how to be a princess of Wales and be trained in the art of rulership.

Q: What do we know about the young Mary's personality?

A: Mary was a very vivacious child who enjoyed dancing. She was always conscious of her royal blood and knew from the start what was expected of her, conforming to her parents' wishes. She seems to have been very well-behaved and would have received lessons in etiquette and manners. She was studious and seems to have had an aptitude for languages, but I think she was also a child who wanted to please her parents.

Her mother was very pious, and Mary was raised with a devotion to the Catholic Church that would last her entire life. She knew what was expected of her as a good Catholic in terms of obedience to the church, so religion was an intrinsic part of her identity. Her first word is said to have been 'priest'!

ABOVE: **Mary's mother, Catherine of Aragon, begged Henry VIII not to follow through with his plans for divorce – but her pleas were unsuccessful**

LEFT: **This image, based on a c1536 portrait by Hans Holbein the Younger, shows Mary in her youth**

Q: How was she affected by her parents' separation?

A: In 1527, when she was 11, Mary's happy childhood was shattered when Henry made clear his desire to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon and marry one of the queen's ladies in waiting, Anne Boleyn. Catherine refused to conform to Henry's wishes and Mary sided with her mother, believing wholeheartedly

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X3

LEFT: **A window at St Mary's Church in Shelton, Norfolk, depicts Sir John and Lady Shelton – the uncle and aunt of Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn**

BELOW: **Mary was sent to live with the Sheltons at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire – but her time there was far from happy**

"MARY IS SAID TO HAVE SPENT MOST OF HER FIRST CHRISTMAS AT HATFIELD WEEPING IN HER CHAMBER"

in the validity of their marriage and her own legitimacy.

Mary's refusal to acknowledge her parents' separation created a huge rift with her father; she went from being an adored child, the king's only legitimate daughter, to suddenly being shut out in the cold. When Anne Boleyn and Henry's daughter Elizabeth was born in September 1533, Mary (aged 17) was informed that she was no longer allowed to use the title of princess and, almost overnight, the future that Mary had envisioned for herself – perhaps as her father's successor – was brought to an abrupt and traumatic close.

A couple of months after her Elizabeth's birth, Mary was sent to join her half-sister's nursery establishment at Hatfield House. Her own household servants were dismissed, and she was allowed just a couple of attendants for herself. For all intents and purposes, Mary was now subordinate to an infant half-sister, and it was made very clear to her that Elizabeth was now the important child with the bright future.

Anne Boleyn's uncle and aunt, Sir John and Lady Shelton, were placed in charge of Princess Elizabeth's household at Hatfield, but Mary was treated quite badly, and there were constant attempts to bully her into acknowledging the invalidity of her parents' marriage and her own legitimacy. When Mary refused to do this, she was refused any kind of relationship with her father and was also forbidden any contact with her mother. There is a report from the Imperial ambassador Eustace Chapuys, one of Catherine and Mary's greatest supporters, that describes Mary as spending most of that first Christmas at Hatfield weeping in her chamber. And sadly, that was pretty much the pattern of life for Mary throughout Henry's marriage to Anne Boleyn.

Eustace Chapuys, the Holy Roman Emperor's ambassador to England, was one of Mary and Catherine's most loyal supporters

Q: What was her relationship with Elizabeth like?

A: While we don't know a great deal about their early months together, we do know that Mary took every opportunity to obtain precedence over her younger sister in all aspects of their lives. She acknowledged that she might call Elizabeth her sister, but said she didn't know of any other child who deserved to be called by the title of princess in the way that she herself did. On one occasion, when Elizabeth was being transported in a litter between palaces, Mary took to her horse and spurred it on ahead to make sure that it was she who arrived at the palace first.

Q: How did things change for Mary after Edward's birth in 1537?

A: Unlike her predecessor Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour was quite fond of Mary and had a great deal of sympathy for her. Catherine of Aragon had died in January 1536 and Jane did her best to effect a reconciliation between Henry VIII and his eldest daughter. She did eventually succeed, but only after Mary finally caved to the pressure and acknowledged the invalidity of her parents' union and the fact that she was illegitimate. There was so much pressure on her to do so, and I think Mary just couldn't take any more – she was craving her father's love.

Life did improve for Mary once she gave into Henry's demands: she was reunited with him and brought to court, where she played a key role in Prince Edward's christening, acting as his godmother. Overall, she started to appear more frequently at her father's side.

Q: How did Mary eventually become queen?

A: Not without a fight! Henry died in 1547, and his son, Edward VI, later attempted to disinherit his half-sisters on the grounds of their illegitimacy, which had been enforced by law during the reign of their father. Although Henry VIII had restored both sisters to the line of succession, neither were legitimised, so Edward removed them from the line and named their cousin, Lady Jane Grey, as his successor.

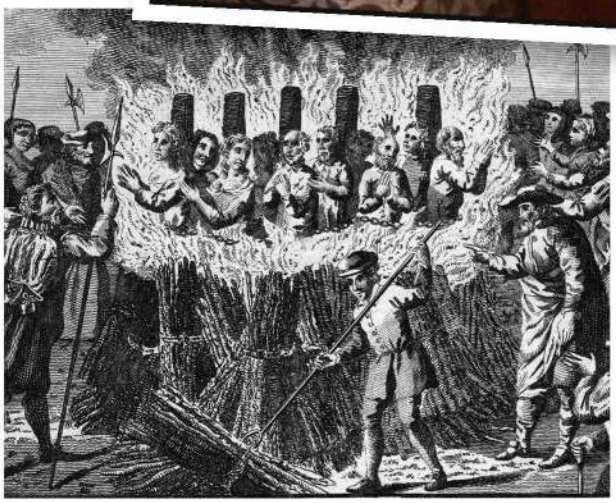
After Edward's early death in 1553, it would have been very easy for Mary to accept the situation and perhaps flee abroad, which is what some of her supporters urged her to do. The odds appeared to be stacked in Jane's favour, so I think it says a lot about her as a person that, rather than giving up, she decided to fight for her right to rule.

To do this, she travelled to East Anglia, where she was a very wealthy and popular landowner, and it's from there that she was able to rally up considerable support for her cause. She wrote to the privy council in London demanding their allegiance, and eventually they had no other choice but to comply and declare her queen. Mary managed to acquire her throne without bloodshed – just by using her popularity.

Q: What was the first thing Mary did as queen?

A: One of the first things Mary did was to revoke the legislation declaring her parents' marriage invalid and thus herself illegitimate. This happened just a couple of months after she took the throne, so she was very keen to remove the stigma of illegitimacy from her bloodline.

To begin with, Mary made it clear that she had no desire to force anyone to conform to Catholicism, the religion that she was so passionate about. But that didn't last for very long, and she quite quickly began to take the first tentative steps towards restoring England to the Catholic faith and to the authority of the pope in Rome. Tolerance of Protestantism soon faded, heresy laws were reintroduced, and Mary began a campaign to start a counter-reformation because she was adamant that England was – and always should be – a Catholic country.



TOP LEFT: **A painting from c1545 depicts half-sisters Mary and Elizabeth either side of Henry, Edward and Jane Seymour (who, in reality, had been dead for several years)**

TOP RIGHT: **A portrait of Mary I from 1554, now on display at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, US**

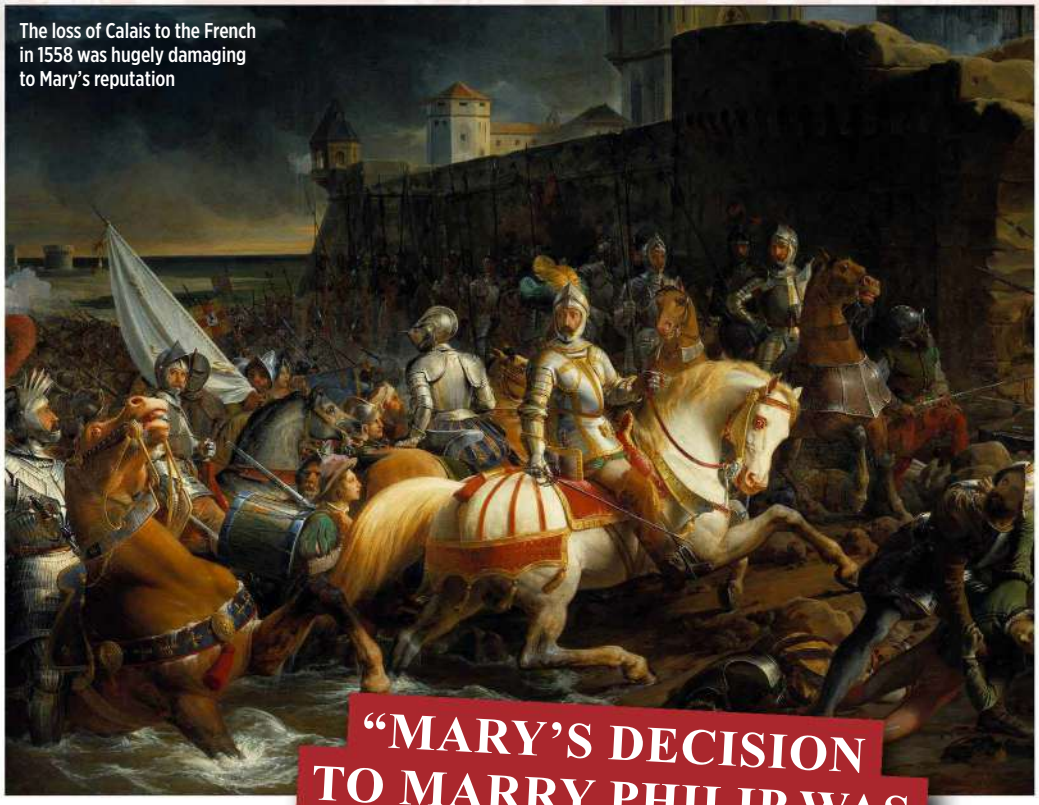
ABOVE: **An engraving shows 17 Protestant martyrs being burned at the stake in Lewes, Sussex, following Mary's orders**

For the most part, her subjects were content to go about their lives and worship in whichever way they were told to. But there were, of course, people who didn't necessarily fit into this category. For a number of very fervent Protestants, flight seemed like the only option, so we do see, fairly quickly into Mary's reign, Protestants beginning to leave England and seek refuge in European Protestant-dominated cities, like Zurich.

Q: Does Mary deserve the title of 'Bloody Mary'?

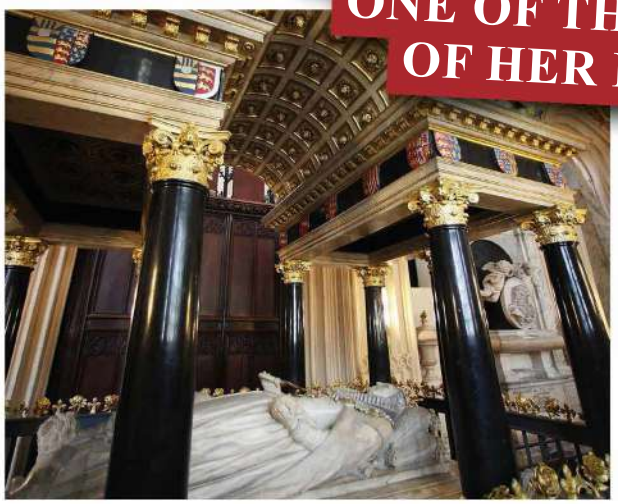
A: In my opinion the title is unfair. We can't shy away from the fact that around 300 Protestants were burned at the stake during her reign, but we need to place that in the context of other European

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2

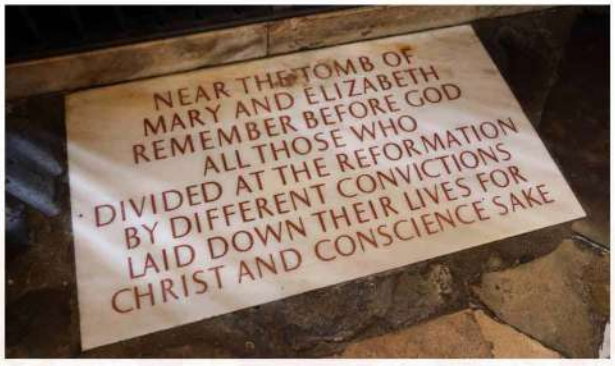


The loss of Calais to the French in 1558 was hugely damaging to Mary's reputation

"MARY'S DECISION TO MARRY PHILIP WAS ONE OF THE WORST OF HER REIGN"



Mary I and Elizabeth I were buried in the same tomb in Westminster Abbey, despite Mary's wishes that she be interred alongside her mother, Catherine



A tablet near the half-sisters' tomb asks visitors to remember the lives of those who died during the religious upheaval of the 16th century

rulers of the time and look at the bigger picture. Indeed, there was religious persecution going on elsewhere, in France, in the Netherlands, and in central Europe, where other rulers were also determined to root out 'heresy'.

Having said that, it is important to say that Mary's religious persecution was on an unprecedented scale in England at that time, and there's no getting away from the fact that the executions were carried out on her orders.

Q: What was Mary's marriage like?

A: Mary was 37 and unmarried when she came to the throne, so she knew that she needed to marry quickly to ensure that she could provide the kingdom with an heir, even if, on a personal level, she wasn't particularly keen on getting married. For Mary, there was only one candidate and that was her second cousin, the future Philip II of Spain, and I would say that her decision to marry him was probably one of the worst of her reign.

The idea of Mary marrying Philip was hugely unpopular in England, not only because he was a Catholic, but also because he was a foreigner with no understanding of England or English affairs. There were fears that he would try and embroil the country in a foreign war, which is exactly what he did.

Mary was head over heels in love with Philip and felt a burning passion for him, but Philip – who was more than a decade younger than his wife – didn't feel particularly amorous towards her. Outwardly he was courteous, but for him the marriage was more about politics than personal desire. Not long after their marriage in July 1554, Mary believed she was pregnant, and Philip stayed with her until the following year. But once it was clear that there was no child and that Mary seemed to have experienced a phantom pregnancy (*see page 37*), he returned to Spain, where he then stayed for the next couple of years.

Although Philip did eventually return to England in 1557, it was with a clear agenda, which was to convince Mary to back Spain's wars with France. It didn't end well: Mary's decision to support her husband was hugely unpopular across England, and in 1558 their worst fears were realised when England lost its last remaining French territory, Calais, which had been in English hands since the 14th century. Mary's people never forgave her for the loss of Calais, and I don't think she ever forgave herself, either.

Q: How did Mary's reign end?

A: Mary died at St James's Palace on 17 November 1558. She had been ill for some time that year – it's thought that she contracted influenza in the summer – and by the autumn her health was in decline.

The queen died abandoned by her husband and estranged from her half-sister, unpopular with her subjects, and surrounded only by her most loyal servants. It was a sad ending for a woman who had come to the throne on such a huge tidal wave of popularity.

INTERVIEW: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

DR NICOLA TALLIS is an acclaimed historian and author, whose books include the forthcoming *Young Elizabeth: Princess. Prisoner. Queen* (Michael O'Mara Books, 2024)

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A TROUBLED CHILDHOOD

First feted but later deprived of her standing as a royal, the future Mary I grew up amid religious, political and familial strife

Childhood is meant to be a time of innocence and stability. A time when you're sheltered from the often-cruel world into which you're born. No such luck for the girl who would become Queen Mary I.

The first 20 years of Mary's life can best be described as a rollercoaster ride – a ride on which she was cherished, mollycoddled and groomed for power, before being ostracised and humiliated. These were hardly the ingredients needed to produce a well-rounded adult.

Even when Queen Catherine of Aragon gave birth to Mary – in the opulent surroundings of Greenwich Palace, on 18 February 1516 – her arrival was a source of joy tinged with disappointment. Joy because she was a healthy baby, born to a royal couple that had experienced the tragedy of stillborn babies on more than one occasion. Disappointment because the one thing her father, Henry VIII, sought above all else was a boy.

CHERISHED CHILD

Despite his regrets over her gender, the king doted on Mary, reportedly boasting to the Venetian ambassador Sebastian Giustiniani that his daughter never cried.

Yet as well as being the object of the king's affections, Mary was also a pawn in the diplomatic marriage market, who could be deployed to shore up the king's position on the European stage. And this was a process that got under way almost as soon as the young princess could walk. In October 1518, at the tender age of two, Mary was betrothed to Francis, the heir apparent to the throne of France.

Francis was only a few months old, so at the betrothal ceremony, the admiral of France was called in to act as the dauphin's proxy, placing a diamond ring on her finger. The young Mary, we're told, stole the show, asking: "Are you the dauphin of France? If you are, I wish to kiss you."

The betrothal was cancelled just three years later – a victim of the vagaries of England's relationship with France – yet it wasn't long before Henry was casting around the courts of Europe for another potential husband for his daughter. Soon, his eye alighted on another prize royal catch, Charles V, the king of Spain and Holy Roman Emperor. Charles was 22 and Mary only six. It was a cavernous age gap but not quite cavernous enough to prevent the two from getting engaged. Charles pulled the plug on the betrothal just a few years later, but the pair remained firm friends.

If the young Mary was to grow up to grace the most exalted social circles in Europe, she needed the best education that money could buy – and that's exactly what she got. She was a precocious child who, with the help of gold-standard scholars such as the Spanish humanist Juan Luis Vives, could read and write in Latin by the age of nine. She studied French and Spanish. She was an excellent musician, capable of entertaining a visiting French delegation on a 16th-century version of the harpsichord when she was just four years old.

Such was Henry and Catherine's growing confidence in their daughter that, in 1525, they sent her to the Anglo-Welsh border to act as a royal representative. Mary was given her own court at Ludlow Castle and conferred with many rights usually reserved for the Prince of Wales.

Mary's beloved mother, Catherine of Aragon, was laid to rest in Peterborough after her death in 1536

Was Mary being groomed to succeed Henry to the throne? We'll never know because, by the end of the 1520s, Henry and Catherine's relationship was turning sour. And Mary would feel the full force of the fall-out.

LONGING FOR A SON

Henry VIII still craved a male heir, and his marriage to Catherine was failing to produce one. And so Henry took the extraordinary decision to separate from his wife and replace her with Anne Boleyn. The ramifications for Mary were dramatic. In 1533, the king got his new wife. Thomas Cranmer, the recently installed archbishop of Canterbury, declared the king's marriage to Catherine null and void. And Mary? She was downgraded from 'Princess' to 'Lady', her household was dissolved, her servants dismissed, and, in December 1533, she was sent to join the household of her infant half-sister, the future Elizabeth I, at Hatfield Palace, Hertfordshire.

Perhaps cruellest of all, she was forbidden from seeing her mother. When Mary had fallen ill as a teenager, Catherine had declared, "I will put her in my own bed where I sleep, and will sit up with her when needful." Yet now the king stood between them. When Catherine died in January 1536, Mary was said to be inconsolable.

In June 1536, on the prompting of a Spanish diplomat who feared for her future, Mary finally submitted to Henry acknowledging the annulment of her parents' marriage, her own illegitimacy, and telling him that, "I knowledge my selfe to have most unkyndly and unnaturally offended Your most excellent Highenes." Did she truly mean what she said? After the way the king had treated her over the past three years, can we really blame her if she didn't?

WORDS: SPENCER MIZEN

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2

LEFT: Holy Roman Emperor Charles V had been briefly engaged to Mary in his youth

BELOW: Mary as she appeared at the age of 28 – nine years before she took the throne

DID YOU KNOW?

A CHIEF FIXER'S FALL

Even in adulthood, Mary found herself caught up in events over which she had no control. When Thomas Cromwell, immortalised in Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*, lost Henry VIII's patronage, an unlikely charge against him was that he had plotted to marry Mary.

"MARY WAS A PRECOCIOUS CHILD WHO COULD READ AND WRITE IN LATIN BY THE AGE OF NINE"

A modern illlustration shows Henry VIII with all six of his wives (*left to right*): Catherine Howard, Katherine Parr, Anne Boleyn, Catherine of Aragon, Jane Seymour and Anne of Cleves

MARY AND HER STEPMOTHERS

Dr Valerie Schutte reveals how the princess and queen regnant both battled with and befriended her father's wives

By the age of 27, Mary Tudor, the eldest daughter of King Henry VIII, had known five stepmothers. Her father had famously separated from her mother, Catherine of Aragon, leaving Mary the only living child of their union, and he later remarried five more times. And although Mary always remained close with her mother, the same cannot always be said for her relationships with the stepmothers who followed.

Anne Boleyn, the first to follow Catherine of Aragon in becoming Henry VIII's queen, was by many accounts Mary's least-favourite stepmother, and these two shared the worst relationship. By 1527, and possibly even earlier, the event that would have the most significant impact on Mary's life had already been set in motion, when it became clear that Henry VIII wanted to annul his marriage to Catherine because she had not borne him any living sons. Anne Boleyn, a lady-in-waiting to the queen and mistress to the king, was ready to fulfil this duty – but only as Henry's wife. Mary became a pawn in the bitter battle as Catherine appealed to Henry to stay in their marriage as they shared, in the words of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, "so sweet a princess for their daughter".

Henry refused Catherine and moved forward with his annulment, on the basis that Catherine had been previously married to his older brother, Prince Arthur, and their subsequent union was incestuous. Henry and Anne (who by now was pregnant) married on 25 January 1533. Four months afterwards Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine was declared invalid by Thomas Cranmer, the archbishop of Canterbury. Mary was deemed illegitimate and stripped of her succession rights, and her mother was forbidden to see her.

The fall from grace was complete. Mary became a lady rather than a princess, and she and her father were frequently separated, often at the insistence of Anne, creating both a physical and familial rift between father and daughter.

Henry and Anne's daughter, Elizabeth, was born on 7 September 1533, a development that did not make Mary's

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

A medal of Mary I designed by the Italian sculptor Jacopo da Trezzo, struck to commemorate her marriage to Philip in 1554

DID YOU KNOW?

CONTESTED TITLES

After Henry VIII divorced Catherine of Aragon, he refused her any title other than the Dowager Princess of Wales. This reflected her status as his brother Arthur's widow, but Catherine continued to see herself as the rightful queen.

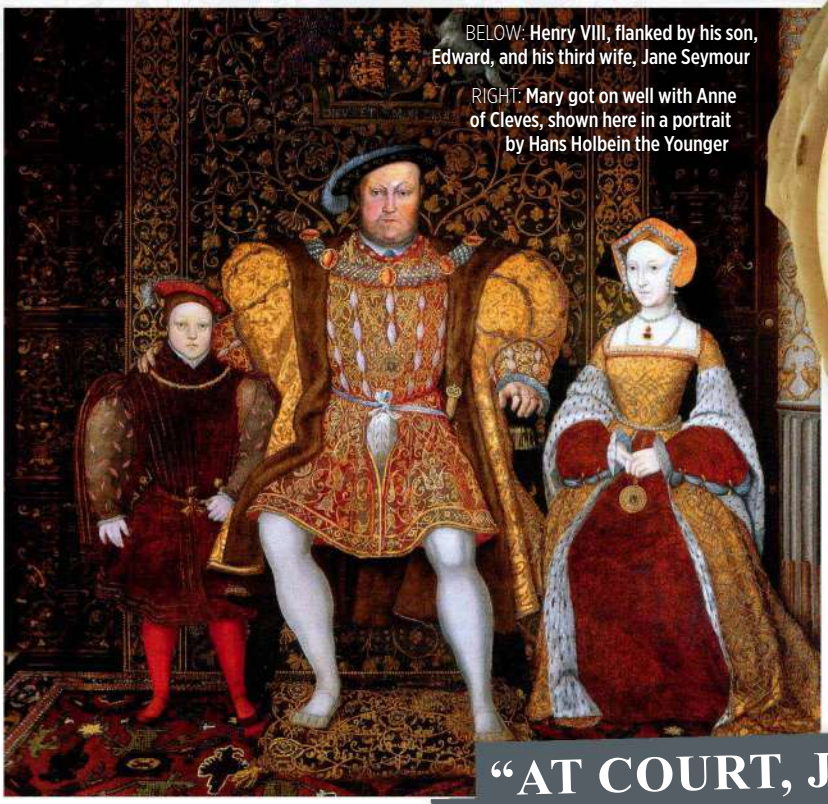
"MARY WAS A PAWN IN THE BITTER BATTLE BETWEEN HENRY VIII AND CATHERINE OF ARAGON"

LEFT: **An 1870 painting by Marcus Stone imagines Catherine of Aragon standing in a doorway observing Henry VIII with Anne Boleyn**

BELOW: **Elizabeth, painted in c1545 when she would have been around 12 years old**

relationship with Anne any less hostile. Mary was now required to acknowledge Elizabeth as a legitimate princess and Henry's heir, something she would not do. As a result, Mary was placed in Elizabeth's household, under the watchful eye of Anne's uncle and aunt, Sir John and Lady Anne Shelton. Even so, Anne frequently complained that Mary was not being surveyed closely enough. On one visit to Elizabeth in March 1534, Anne demanded that Mary come see her and "honour her as Queen". Mary agreed to see Anne, but refused to acknowledge any queen other than her mother.

On 7 January 1536, Mary's mother, Catherine of Aragon, died. Meanwhile, Anne Boleyn was in the early stages of another pregnancy. Anne, fearing that Henry's affections for her might decline now that Catherine was dead, reached out to Mary, offering to be "like another mother" to her. Mary flatly refused, stating that "there was no daughter in the world who would be more obedient to her father in what she could do saving her honour and conscience". On the day of Catherine's burial, Anne went into premature labour and gave birth to a stillborn son. Catherine had perhaps been Anne's greatest protection from Henry becoming disaffected of his second marriage and seeking another partner who could give him a son. As long as Catherine was alive, Henry ▶



BELOW: **Henry VIII, flanked by his son, Edward, and his third wife, Jane Seymour**

RIGHT: **Mary got on well with Anne of Cleves, shown here in a portrait by Hans Holbein the Younger**

"AT COURT, JANE SEYMOUR WATCHED OVER BOTH MARY AND ELIZABETH"

could not divorce a second time and risk having three living wives. Following Catherine's death and Anne's miscarriage, the cracks in the royal marriage became wider, until Henry realised he would be more satisfied with a new, unopposed third wife. Anne was executed on 19 May 1536, charged with treason. The day before her execution, Anne sent lady-in-waiting Lady Kingston to Mary to ask for forgiveness. She should, wrote the historian Martin Haile, "throw herself in like manner at the feet of Lady Mary, and beseech her to forgive the many wrongs which the pride of a thoughtless, unfortunate woman had brought upon her".

FORGING A FRIENDSHIP

Just 11 days after Anne's execution, Mary had a second stepmother, Jane Seymour, only eight years Mary's senior. Jane encouraged a reconciliation of the bitter relationship between Mary and Henry, although Henry refused to return Mary to favour until she signed an oath of submission. On 22 June 1536, Mary signed a statement agreeing that the marriage of her mother and father was never valid, that she was legally a bastard, and that her father was Supreme Head of the Church of England. Though surely a cruel blow to the loyalty she held for her mother, the oath meant that Mary could finally regain her own household.

Once Mary and Henry were reconciled, Mary wrote a letter to Jane, in which she thanked the queen consort for her "motherly joy" and offered to serve her "obediently". Jane also attended Henry's subsequent meeting with Mary, the first in years, and gave her a diamond ring as a sign of affection. Mary spent Christmas 1536 with her father and Jane at Greenwich.

During her 17-month tenure as queen, Jane showed kindness to Mary and the two became friends. Upon the eruption of the 1536 Pilgrimage of Grace, an uprising in some of England's northern counties against the Reformation, Henry recalled both Mary and Elizabeth to court, where Jane watched over them. Jane even took an interest in meeting with an imperial ambassador to discuss Mary's potential marriage to the brother of the king of Portugal. While the women were close in age, it seems as though Jane had a motherly attitude towards Mary.

In May 1537, Jane's pregnancy was announced. Mary became one of the queen's attendants, reciprocating her friendship by sending her quails and cucumbers to satisfy her cravings. After Edward's birth on 12 October, Mary stood as his godmother in the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace. Jane died 12 days later, and Mary served as her chief mourner, riding behind her coffin from Hampton Court to Windsor.

THE BRIEFEST MARRIAGE

Henry's fourth wedding took place on 6 January 1540 to Anne of Cleves, who was less than one year older than Mary. Although the marriage only lasted six months, during that time Mary and Anne formed a friendship that would last until Anne's death in 1557. In June 1543, Mary visited Anne at Richmond Palace

The Pilgrimage of Grace (1536–37), shown here in a painting by Andrew Benjamin Donaldson, was a perilous moment for Henry VIII

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X2

DID YOU KNOW?

TANGLED WEB

After Henry's death, Katherine Parr married Thomas Seymour – Jane's brother. Elizabeth lived with Katherine and, when Thomas was subsequently tried for treason, scandal swirled around his flirtatious behaviour towards the teenage princess.

ABOVE: **A c1901 engraving shows Catherine Howard being taken to be beheaded at the Tower of London**

and in June 1544, Anne sent Mary a gift of Spanish silk. Anne later rode with Elizabeth directly behind Mary upon her entry to London for her coronation as Mary I in 1553. Nevertheless, only one year later Mary's councillors suspected Anne of being involved in Wyatt's Rebellion (a Protestant insurrection that broke out under the leadership of Sir Thomas Wyatt), although nothing came of the accusations.

Mary and Anne remained friendly, although the latter never returned to court. Mary did, however, make sure that Anne was buried in Westminster Abbey, befitting her position both as former queen and 'Beloved Sister' (as she had been pronounced) to the king of England.

Mary gained her next stepmother on 28 July 1540, when Henry married Catherine Howard, who was between two and seven years younger than Mary (estimates on Howard's date of birth vary), and a cousin of Anne Boleyn. The relationship between Mary and Catherine was fraught, likely due both to Catherine's age and her ties to Anne Boleyn. There is evidence that, in December 1540, Catherine asked Henry to remove two of Mary's attendants because Mary did not show her the same respect that she had given to Catherine's two predecessors.

While Mary's relationship with Catherine was not as directly tense as it had been with Anne Boleyn, Mary's position at court nonetheless improved greatly after Catherine's death in 1542. (Catherine was the second of Henry's wives to be executed, having been found guilty of treason for adultery.) Without any wife in the way, Henry was able to enjoy a peaceful relationship with his daughter.

BELOW: **There's evidence to suggest that Henry VIII's final wife, Katherine Parr (1512–48), was close to Mary Tudor**

By February 1543, Katherine Parr had joined Mary's household. Katherine was only four years older than Mary. Katherine's mother was previously a lady-in-waiting to Catherine of Aragon, who also served as her godmother. Mary and Katherine may have even known each other as children. Henry began visiting Mary more frequently so as to see Katherine, and the ageing king entered into his sixth and final marriage on 12 July 1543.

Both Mary and Elizabeth attended the wedding at Hampton Court. Mary and Katherine's good relationship did not change after Katherine married Henry, although it is unlikely that Mary truly considered her a stepmother in the same way that Elizabeth and Edward did.

Several letters exist between Katherine, Elizabeth and Edward, where Elizabeth refers to herself as "your most obedient daughter" and Edward notes he is Katherine's "loving son". In only one letter, dated 9 August 1548, Mary does sign as "your highness's humble and assured loving daughter". Most likely, Mary and Katherine had mutual affection for one another, and perhaps even a sisterly bond.

INTELLECTUAL PURSUITS

Indeed, there is evidence of a strong connection. Ambassador Eustace Chapuys reported that Katherine "favours the Princess all she can" and remarked on how the two women were almost always together. Katherine was certainly a driving force in restoring both Mary and Elizabeth to the line of succession. She was an attentive stepmother for all three of Henry's children, from overseeing their educations to having their portraits painted. Katherine even enlisted Mary to translate the Gospel of John for her English-language edition of the philosopher and theologian Erasmus's *Paraphrases* on the New Testament.

No more than seven years younger than all of her stepmothers (with the exception of Anne Boleyn) and a fierce defender of her mother's right as well as her own legitimacy, Mary likely never regarded her father's last five wives as motherly figures. Even when she adopted the daughterly language of deference, she likely did so because it was appropriate protocol rather than a true reflection of her feelings. That said, evidence suggests that Mary did enjoy close relationships with Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves and Katherine Parr.

As a stepdaughter, Mary would surely not always have been easy company, but this may in part be because she had to survive an uncommon, dangerous situation – constant competition with five others to be the most prominent royal woman in England.

DR VALERIE SCHUTTE has authored and co-edited many titles on the queens of Europe, including *Princesses Mary and Elizabeth Tudor and the Gift Book Exchange* (Arc Humanities Press, 2021) and a forthcoming book on Anne of Cleves

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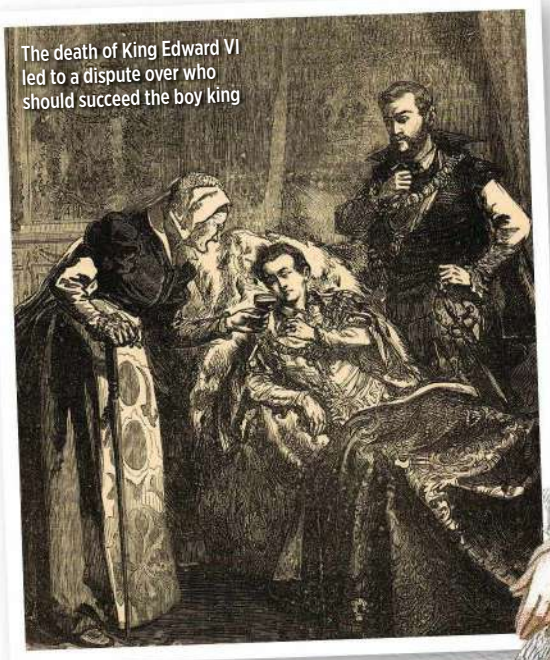
THE PHANTOM PREGNANCY

In a time of political and religious turmoil, news that Mary I was pregnant – only for the baby to never arrive – had profound consequences for her reign. **Professor Carole Levin** explains why



The death of King Edward VI led to a dispute over who should succeed the boy king

Initially enjoying popular support, Mary I reigned from 1553–58

Lady Jane Grey, the 'Nine Days' Queen', who was beheaded for treason in 1554

On 30 April 1555, England rejoiced over news of the birth of a royal infant. Bells rang, bonfires were lit and there were celebrations in the street, following reports that Mary I had given birth to a healthy son. In reality, there was no boy and, eventually, any hope of Mary bearing a child faded. What was thought to be a royal pregnancy ended in sadness, humiliation and political turmoil. This was the phantom pregnancy of Mary I.

To understand just why this was so important to the nation, we need to go back to 19 July 1553, the day Mary Tudor was declared queen. The proclamation came a little less than a fortnight after the death of her boy-king half-brother, Edward VI, and just days after Lady Jane Grey was briefly acclaimed as monarch – a decision reversed in light of Mary's widespread popular support. With no appropriate male heirs to the throne, Henry VIII's oldest surviving child became Queen of England – and a Catholic queen at that.

As soon as Mary was crowned, everyone – including Mary herself – expected her to marry so that she could bear a child. The longed-for child would hopefully be a son, so that the English, after long years of worrying about the succession under Henry VIII, could look forward to someday having a ▶

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X3

"MARY WAS THOROUGHLY CONVINCED SHE WAS PREGNANT AND EXPECTED TO GIVE BIRTH IN MAY 1555"

king once more. As Mary was already 37, there was no time to waste.

Mary decided to marry the future Philip II of Spain, the son of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor. However, for a number of months, the Spanish feared it was not safe for Philip to travel to England because there was such uproar over the proposed marriage. The furore meant the two were not married until 25 July 1554, more than a year after Mary ascended the throne.

By September, rumours were circulating that Mary was pregnant, although as late as November the queen herself was unsure. According to medical texts from the period, it was difficult to tell a false pregnancy from a real one – at least until a baby was born, or the usual gestation period had passed. However, Mary stated towards the end of November that she felt the child move in her womb.

Those at both the English and the Spanish courts were delighted by Mary's pregnancy, but there were still some, including Spanish ambassador Simon Renard, who wondered if the queen was really with child. Nevertheless, he thought it would be good for the Anglo-Spanish alliance if she were, reportedly announcing in one of his dispatches: "If it is true, everything will calm down and go smoothly here."

BUILDING A NEST

Mary, now thoroughly convinced she was pregnant, expected she would give birth in May 1555. A birth chamber was prepared, as was a nursery with a beautifully carved cradle. Women were hired to help care for the baby. Letters announcing the birth were written, with just the date and the sex of the infant to be filled in. In his book *Death and the Virgin: Elizabeth, Dudley and the Mysterious Fate of Amy Robsart*, historian Chris Skidmore says the word 'fil' (son) was written on the letters because it could easily be amended to 'fille' if the baby was a girl. Mary and Philip went to Hampton Court, where they wanted the birth to take place.

Rumours of Mary's safe delivery of a child soon spread abroad and those on the continent even sent letters of congratulations. In London, one preacher reported that no one had ever before seen such a beautiful prince. It soon became known the rumour was false, yet Mary and Philip continued to wait.

As May became June, Mary remained in her birthing chamber, refusing to see

ABOVE: **A 19th-century illustration shows Mary I telling diplomat Simon Renard (*right*) that she will marry Philip, Charles V's son**

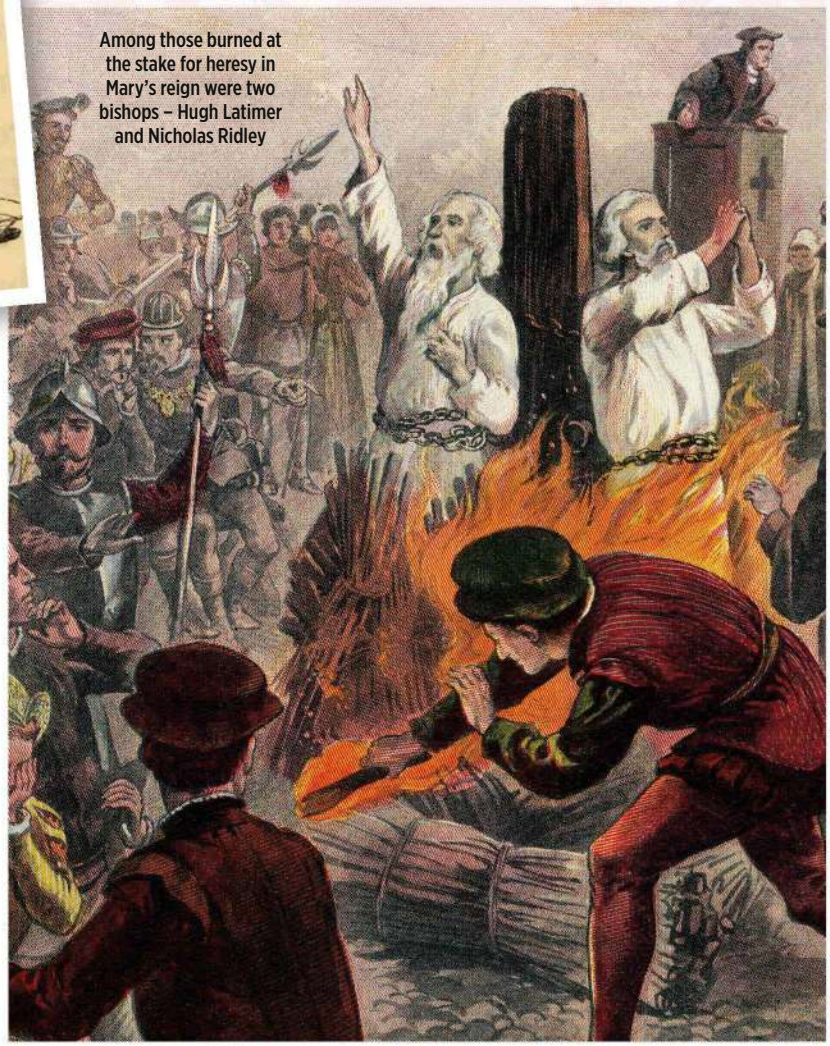
ABOVE LEFT: **Philip II of Spain, who hoped his children would one day rule England**

ABOVE RIGHT: **Philip and Mary, who together had a plethora of royal titles**

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X4

ABOVE: **In 1688, it was rumoured that the son of another Mary, James II's wife, had been smuggled into her chamber in a warming pan**

LEFT: **Princess Elizabeth as a child**



Among those burned at the stake for heresy in Mary's reign were two bishops – Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley

people, but not giving up hope. As late as July, the queen asserted she was still pregnant and had simply miscalculated her timings, but by the end of the month all hope was gone. In early August, Mary left her chamber at Hampton Court for a smaller, more private residence. Giovanni Michieli, the Venetian ambassador, wrote that Mary's pregnancy was more likely to "end in wind rather than anything else".

Everywhere there was gossip and speculation. Had the people been told she was pregnant to keep them happy and supportive of their queen? If so, this was surely a shortsighted idea. Some were convinced that Mary was ill and had simply convinced herself she was pregnant, while others claimed that she had been pregnant and that a miscarriage was being kept secret.

Some were convinced that she had never been pregnant at all and the plan for some other baby boy to be smuggled into the court had somehow fallen apart. A few wondered if the queen were even still alive, or if those in power put an effigy of her in the window for people to see. One particularly strange idea was that, instead of a baby, Mary had given birth to a mole!

A SYMBOL OF FAILURE

The story of the queen's failed, fictive pregnancy was so powerful that it came around again more than a century later, when James II's second wife, another Catholic, Mary of Modena, fell pregnant. Many spoke of Mary I, and how now once again a queen was not really pregnant. It was later claimed that a baseborn boy had been smuggled into the palace in a warming pan to be presented as Mary's child.

The reign of Mary ended with no heir to the throne. The country turned instead to her younger half-sister, Elizabeth. For Protestant historians writing in the next century, the phantom pregnancy became a metaphor for all of Mary's failures – especially the burning of around 300 people as heretics.

CAROLE LEVIN is Willa Cather professor of history emeritus at the University of Nebraska. Her most recent book is *The Reign and Life of Queen Elizabeth I: Politics, Culture, and Society* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022)

Scurrilous rumours suggested that Mary I had actually given birth to a mole

6 MOMENTS THAT SHAPED MARY'S REIGN

During her time in power, the queen faced a series of challenges – some caused by outside forces, some by her own actions

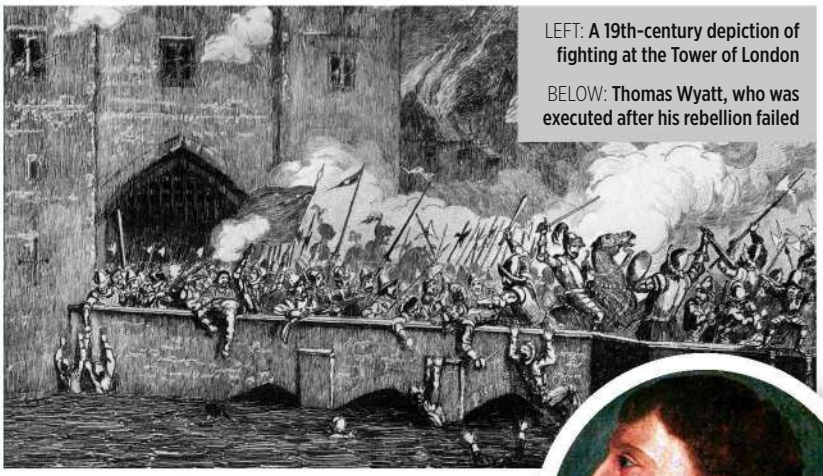
MARRIAGE

Once Mary became queen, after the exceedingly short (and disputed) reign of Lady Jane Grey, a high priority for the new monarch was to find a husband and produce an heir. To Mary, the alternative was inconceivable. The 1544 Act of Succession, the legislation that had overlooked Mary's supposed illegitimacy and placed her on the throne should Edward VI die without issue, would on Mary's death do exactly the same for her younger half-sister, Elizabeth. If that were so, any recalibration of England along Catholic lines under Mary's rule would be unstitched by Elizabeth's keenness for the country to revert back to Protestantism as its official religion.

At the age of 37, Mary had to move swiftly. A suitable husband was speedily identified when her politically savvy cousin (and former fiancé), Charles V of Spain, offered his widowed son Philip, who had already fathered a son of his own with his first wife, Maria Manuela of Portugal. While the subsequent marriage did intimately reconnect England with one of the Catholic powerhouses of Europe – especially when Philip acceded to the Spanish throne in 1556, making Mary the queen of Spain, too – the union didn't produce any children. On Mary's death in 1558 at the age of 42, Elizabeth took power and Protestantism returned to England.

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

A 'jeton', a token used in calculations and similar in some respects to a modern-day poker chip, shows Philip and Mary



LEFT: **A 19th-century depiction of fighting at the Tower of London**

BELOW: **Thomas Wyatt, who was executed after his rebellion failed**

WYATT'S REBELLION

When news of Mary's impending marriage circulated, there was disquiet across England. Not only was there concern the country's power would wane as a result of a union with Spain, but there was also a deep-seated fear among those who had approved of Henry VIII's split from Rome and the reforming zeal of his successor, his teenage son, Edward VI.

This outcry truly found its voice in what became known as Wyatt's Rebellion, an uprising that sought to remove Mary from power and place her half-sister Elizabeth on the throne. It bore the name of Sir Thomas Wyatt, a headstrong man who had form when it came to uprisings, having previously served a month's imprisonment in the Tower of London for his role in a street riot. While Wyatt hadn't been entirely unsupportive of Mary becoming queen, the marriage to Philip sounded the loudest of alarm bells to him. He feared England would now experience "the most miserable servitude" to Rome.

In late 1553, Wyatt and his co-conspirators – which included Sir James Croft, Sir Peter Carew and Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk (and father of Lady Jane Grey) – hatched a plan involving separate uprisings that would culminate in Elizabeth becoming queen and marrying an Englishman, Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon. However, having got wind of the rebellion, Mary ordered the arrests of those known to be spearheading the operation. While some were detained, Wyatt pressed on with plans to march on London from the Medway region of Kent.

A delegation was sent to intercept Wyatt and his men. Negotiations over their grievances gave Mary time to deliver a speech at London's Guildhall, denouncing Wyatt as a traitor and bolstering public support. On finally reaching the capital, Wyatt encountered resistance from loyalists to the queen. He surrendered in February 1554 and was executed in April. Suffolk suffered the same fate, Carew fled abroad, and Croft received a fine.

ELIZABETH'S IMPRISONMENT

When Mary rode through the streets of London on 3 August 1553, ready to become queen after the removal of Lady Jane Grey, Elizabeth, 17 years her junior, rode obediently at her side. Despite their religious differences, the younger half-sister gave the appearance of dutiful compliance. But any public show of solidarity was to fade once Mary's reign got up to speed.

When Wyatt's Rebellion, with its ultimate goal of putting Elizabeth on the throne, was crushed in early 1554, Mary harboured suspicions her half-sister was directly involved in the plot. Elizabeth, then aged 20, was imprisoned on the queen's orders in the Tower of London, from where she energetically declared her innocence.

Those close to Mary attempted to persuade her to put Elizabeth on trial for sedition, believing a subsequent guilty verdict and execution to be the only way to remove this threat to Mary's rule. Others, possibly concerned at how this treatment of the popular Elizabeth would be greeted by the public, advised the queen that there was insufficient evidence to prove any involvement in the plot.

Mary spared Elizabeth the indignity of a trial but, after two months' confinement in the Tower, placed her under house arrest for the best part of a year. The hard evidence might have been absent, but Mary clearly still held uncomfortable thoughts that the greatest danger to her reign came from the closest of quarters. As Elizabeth rode to her new place of confinement in Oxfordshire, the more cautious members of Mary's government were shown to have been astute in persuading her against taking the most punitive measures. The public wouldn't have stood for it, clearly favouring the younger Protestant over the Catholic queen, as proved by the rapturous roadside reception Elizabeth received all the way to Woodstock.

"THOSE CLOSE TO MARY ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE HER TO PUT ELIZABETH ON TRIAL"

When Wyatt's Rebellion failed, Mary reputedly had her half-sister – the future Elizabeth I – imprisoned in the Tower of London

DID YOU KNOW?

FATEFUL DAY

After two months held in her mother Anne Boleyn's former apartments, Elizabeth was allowed to leave the Tower of London. The day of her release into house arrest, 19 May 1554, was the anniversary of Boleyn's execution, in 1536.

THE EXECUTION OF THOMAS CRANMER

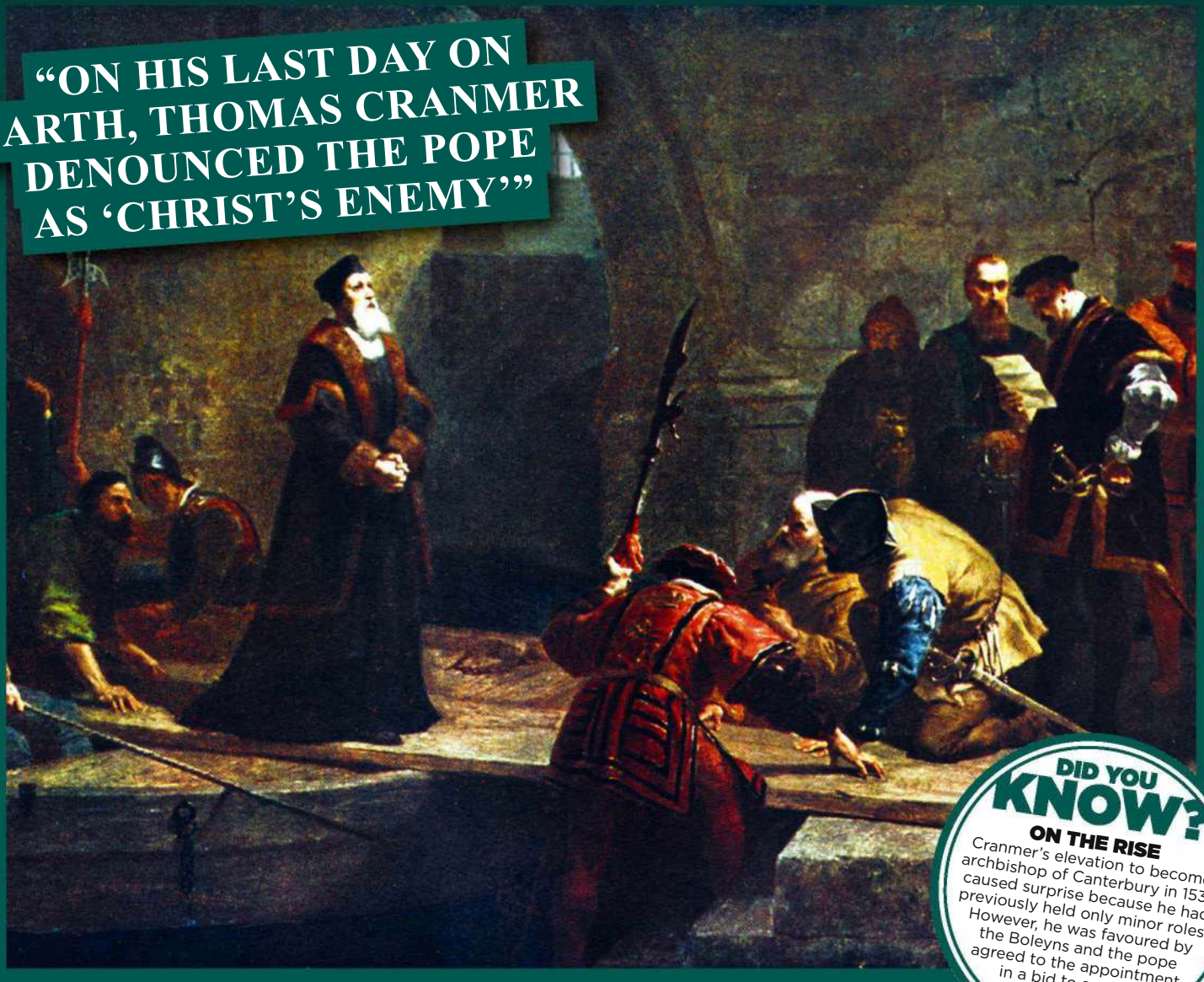
As archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer was a pivotal figure in the English Reformation, charged with restructuring the reformed Church of England, as well as being the compiler of the influential Book of Common Prayer. Having greatly assisted with Henry VIII's extrication from Rome, Cranmer's reforms accelerated during the reign of Mary's half-brother, Edward VI.

After Edward's death at the age of 15, Cranmer became a high-priority target for the new Catholic monarch. Little more than a month after the king's funeral, in August 1553, the archbishop was imprisoned in the Tower of London. Three months later, he was found guilty of treason and sentenced to death, although his execution was delayed for a second trial the following September, this one for heresy.

Subsequent recantations concerning his faith, and declarations of obedience to both the queen and the pope, would normally have absolved someone in his position. But Mary was resistant to such leniency, declaring that Cranmer's "iniquity and obstinacy was so great against God" that "clemency and mercy could have no place with him".

On 21 March 1556, his last day on Earth, Cranmer renounced his supposed renewed Catholicism and denounced the pope as "Christ's enemy". It was a final act of defiance before he was tied to the stake and consumed by the flames.

"ON HIS LAST DAY ON EARTH, THOMAS CRANMER DENOUNCED THE POPE AS 'CHRIST'S ENEMY'"



A 19th-century work by Frederick Goodall shows a dignified Thomas Cranmer arriving at the Tower of London via Traitors' Gate

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X1

DID YOU KNOW?

ON THE RISE

Cranmer's elevation to become archbishop of Canterbury in 1533 caused surprise because he had previously held only minor roles. However, he was favoured by the Boleyns and the pope agreed to the appointment in a bid to appease Henry VIII.

Nearly 300 Protestants were executed for heresy between 1555 and 1558

REVIVAL OF THE HERESY ACTS

Thomas Cranmer was far from the only high-ranking Protestant in Mary's crosshairs. Within a couple of months of the new queen taking to the throne, several other clergymen and religious reformers also found themselves under lock and key at the Tower of London. The religious tolerance promised at the time of her accession had dissolved almost immediately.

Mary's deeds went further than the detention of those whose religious outlook was now a bad fit with those of the monarch. The religious laws brought in during Henry VIII and Edward VI's respective reigns were repealed by parliament, aided by extensive lobbying from Mary's Spanish husband, Philip. Most dangerous of all to those of a Protestant persuasion was the Revival of the Heresy Acts, which reintroduced three previous pieces of legislation from the 14th and 15th centuries previously repealed by Henry and Edward. The revived acts permitted both "the arresting and apprehension of erroneous and heretical preachers" and "the repressing of heresies and punishment of heretics".

Mary's Protestant foes were right to be concerned and many ran scared. Around 800 disappeared into exile, while those who steadfastly refused to submit and who continued to preach found themselves purged. Nearly 300 were executed, although such acts were far from warmly welcomed by the public. As a result, anti-Catholic sentiment would continue to simmer well beyond Mary's death.

THE WAR WITH FRANCE AND THE LOSS OF CALAIS

In March 1556, England's relationship with France grew strained as a result of the Dudley conspiracy, a plot led by Sir Henry Dudley to gather together forces in northern France in preparation for an invasion of England and the attempted overthrow of Mary. Antoine de Noailles, the French ambassador in London, was implicated in the plot and swiftly returned to his homeland to evade capture.

The following spring, Mary's husband, Philip, now the king of Spain, attempted to persuade the queen to support a war against France. Mary's enthusiasm for Philip's proposal was tempered by the caution of her advisers. They were rightly concerned that the English economy, already suffering after a succession of wet summers and bad harvests, would be further damaged by the loss of trade with France. However, after another French-assisted plot to depose Mary – this one led by the aristocrat Thomas Stafford – she declared war in June 1557.

An early English victory came at the battle of Saint Quentin but the following January witnessed a defeat that was crushing, both to national morale and to Mary's foreign policy reputation. The French besieged the port of Calais, in English hands for some 200 years and a vital hub for trade with mainland Europe, resulting in a humiliating handover of power.

Mary's decision to go to war had further implications than just the loss of Calais. It had also diminished her standing in the eyes of Pope Paul IV, a staunch ally of Henry II of France.

WORDS: NIGE TASSELL

LEFT: **The French ambassador to England, Antoine de Noailles**

BELOW: **The French capture of Calais was a huge blow for Mary**

MEET THE EXPERT

DR NICOLA TALLIS is an acclaimed historian and author, whose books include *Crown of Blood: The Deadly Inheritance of Lady Jane Grey* (Michael O'Mara Books, 2016) and the forthcoming *Young Elizabeth: Princess. Prisoner. Queen* (Michael O'Mara Books, 2024). To hear Dr Tallis discuss Mary I on our new *Life of the Week* podcast series, scan the QR code above or visit *historyextra.com/lifeoftheweek*

DR NICOLA TALLIS ON HOW WE SHOULD VIEW MARY I'S REIGN TODAY

Though she was by no means perfect, the queen's triumphs need to be considered

Despite a wealth of recent scholarship that has sought to redress the balance, the unflattering title of 'Bloody Mary' has stuck to Henry VIII's eldest daughter. Yet, there was far more to the woman who successfully navigated her way to the English throne than this. One of Mary's greatest achievements was winning her crown without bloodshed when her childless half-brother Edward VI sought to deprive her of her inheritance in his dying days. Deposing her cousin Lady Jane Grey in the process, Mary I succeeded to the throne on 19 July 1553 on an overwhelming wave of public support. On 1 October, she became England's first regnant queen to be crowned, a considerable accomplishment at a time when female rule had no real precedent within her realm.

Mary took her responsibilities as monarch seriously and dedicated herself to the task of governing her kingdom from the offset. She was hardworking, with a strong sense of duty. This was particularly true when it came to the question of who would succeed her. Mary was 37 at the time of her accession, and though considered old by contemporary standards for childbearing, married the future Philip II of Spain in 1554 with an eye to producing an heir. Much to her sorrow, she did not succeed in doing so, and was eventually forced to concede that her half-sister Elizabeth would rule after her. Witnessing the unpopularity of Mary's marriage to a Spanish consort, Elizabeth undoubtedly capitalised on her half-sister's mistakes to her own advantage, and much was done to blacken Mary's name during her reign.

There is no escaping the fact that, during the course of Mary I's five-year rule, nearly 300 Protestants were burned at the stake, and she must bear some responsibility for this. But what is perhaps both unfair and overlooked is the fact that none of Mary's male contemporaries who were doing the same elsewhere in Europe have been labelled in a similar manner.

In the modern world, as we consider Mary's importance as queen, her failings have without doubt overshadowed her successes, particularly her personal sense of courage and her determination to pursue the throne she felt was her birthright. Though she was by no means perfect, her triumphs deserve to be considered in equal measure. As we study her reign and her legacy, we should certainly be doing so through a lens that offers a more balanced perspective than that of the legend of 'Bloody Mary'.

Male monarchs on the Continent also persecuted large numbers of Protestants – but Mary I has often faced much harsher criticism

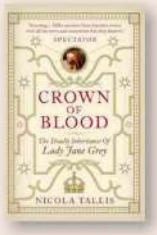
GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X1

GET HOOKED

Learn more about Mary I and the Tudor era with our pick of key resources

BOOKS

SELECTED BY DR NICOLA TALLIS



Crown of Blood: The Deadly Inheritance of Lady Jane Grey

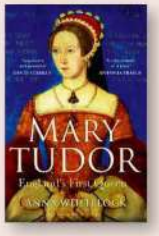
By Dr Nicola Tallis (Michael O'Mara, 2016)

In this dramatic retelling of an often misread tale, historian and researcher Dr Nicola Tallis explores a range of evidence to sweep away the many myths and reveal the moving, human story of a courageous young woman.

Mary Tudor: The First Queen

By Dr Linda Porter (Portrait, 2007)

Instead of the bloodthirsty bigot of Protestant mythology, Dr Linda Porter portrays Mary as a cultured Renaissance princess and a courageous survivor of the violent struggles that characterised the reigns of her father and brother.



Mary Tudor: England's First Queen

By Prof Anna Whitelock (Bloomsbury, 2009)

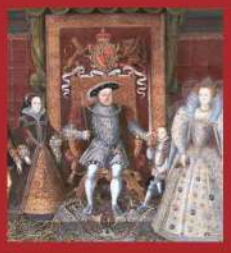
In this illuminating biography of the Tudor queen, Professor Anna Whitelock tells the remarkable story of a woman who was treated as a much-feted princess one minute and a disinherited 'bastard' the next.

Children of England: The Heirs of King Henry VIII, 1547–1558

By Alison Weir (Vintage, 2008)

Making use of a variety of contemporary sources, Weir brings to life one of the most extraordinary periods of English history, when the realm was seething with intrigue and turbulent change.

ON THE BBC



◀ The Hidden Henry VIII: Henry the Father

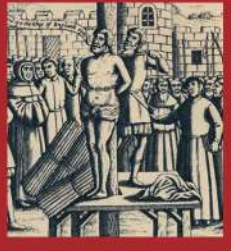
bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00nhbsm

Historians Prof Susan Doran and Dr Lucy Wooding consider what it would have been like to have had Henry VIII as your father.

◀ The Reformation: A World Divided

bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3csv0s0

In this episode of *The Forum* from 2017, historians discuss the permanent splintering of Western Christianity that changed the political and social landscape in a way that still resonates today.



◀ In Our Time: Foxe's Book of Martyrs

bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00vy2dd

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss John Foxe and his famous *Book of Martyrs*, which charts the persecution and executions of around 300 Protestants under Mary I.

ON HISTORYEXTRA

For podcasts, features, quizzes, interviews and more on Mary I, scan the QR code shown right, or visit *historyextra.com/people/mary-tudor*

▶ Mary Tudor: brutal but brilliant

Prof Alexander Samson looks beyond the grisly caricature of 'Bloody Mary' to discover one of England's most accomplished monarchs. Read at *bit.ly/3PUJMIH*

▶ Did Elizabeth I and her half-sister, Mary Tudor, have a good relationship?

Dr Tracy Borman explains what the two daughters of Henry VIII thought of each other. Watch at *bit.ly/3PU7kgG*

▶ Mary I: the forgotten trailblazer

Prof Anna Whitelock considers Mary I's legacy as a pioneering monarch who achieved great things during her reign. Read at *bit.ly/3PHK09Q*

PREMIUM PODCAST SERIES

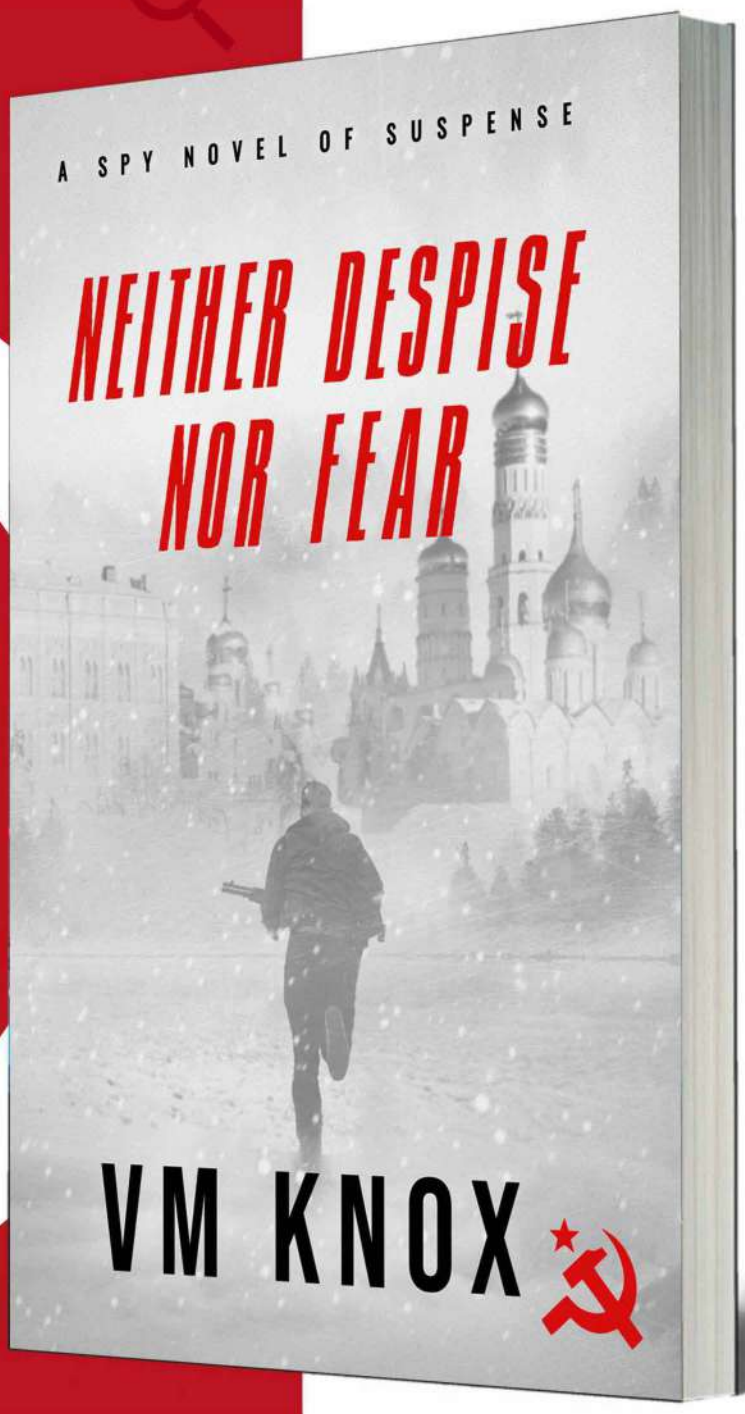
Life of the Week: Mary I

Subscribe to the series at *historyextra.com/lifeoftheweek*

Dr Nicola Tallis will be kicking off our new premium *Life of the Week* podcast series with an exploration into the life and reign of Queen Mary I – from her early childhood as a treasured heir to the throne, to the misery she endured following her father's many remarriages, and her reputation as 'Bloody Mary'.

GETTY IMAGES X3

From the bestselling author of the Clement Wisdom novels comes a thrilling new Cold War espionage series



1965 and Alistair Quinn is sixteen. Making a sudden and life changing decision, he runs away from his prestigious North London school and heads straight for the bright lights of Soho. In a brothel there he meets a prominent politician and a Soviet KGB officer; one MI5 and the CIA hope to turn double agent.

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TOP 10

CITY FOUNDATION MYTHS

From accounts of winged warriors to stories of snake-gobbling eagles, **Nige Tassell** looks at a selection of the weird and wonderful tales used to explain the origins of the world's greatest metropolises

1 ROME / ITALY

The twins Romulus and Remus were the sons of a Vestal Virgin, Rheia Silvia. They were born, according to an account by the Greek essayist Plutarch, after Silvia was raped by the god Mars. Not an auspicious start, especially as the boys' great-uncle, Amulius, a usurper who had snatched the throne of Alba Longa from Numitor, his brother and Silvia's father, saw the duo as a threat.

Aiming to sidestep any future challenge to his rule, Amulius abandoned the babies to the Tiber. However, their expected demise was avoided when they were washed up on the shore downriver, under a fig tree. There, so one version of the story goes, a she-wolf suckled the babies, who were later cared for by a shepherd and his wife.

In adolescence, the twins avenged their intended fate by killing Amulius and returning their grandfather, Numitor, to the throne. The pair then developed plans to create their own city, but things took a grave turn when Romulus killed his brother over a minor disagreement. Rome, eventually founded in 753 BC, took its name from the surviving twin.

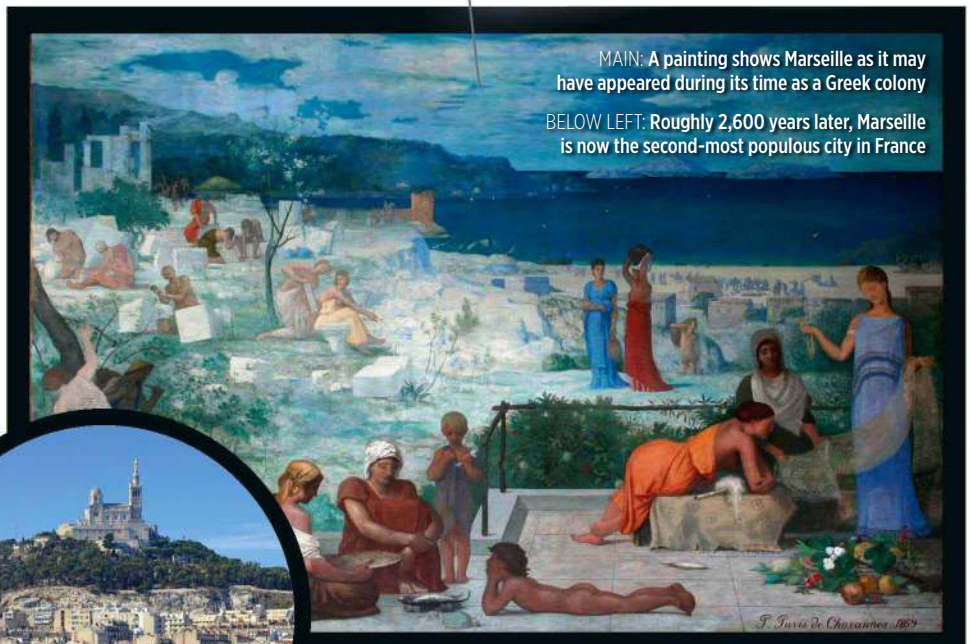
Romulus and Remus are said to have avoided death by suckling on a she-wolf. Artistic depictions of their pair feeding can be found across Rome – including this scultpure in the Capitoline Museums

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X1

2 TENOCHTITLAN / MEXICO

Established in the early 14th century, Tenochtitlan was both the capital of the Aztecs and the largest city in the Americas in the immediate pre-Columbian era. It was also a city with a decidedly esoteric foundation myth that begins with the Aztec god Huitzilopochtli instructing his people to abandon their homeland of Aztlan and to establish a new base elsewhere.

Huitzilopochtli's directions over where this site was to be found were simultaneously inexact and specific. The Aztecs were to start building when they saw an eagle sitting on a cactus and eating a snake. Still, he obviously knew what he was on about and the migrating Aztecs came across this very scene, on an island in Lake Texcoco. They promptly began building Tenochtitlan and its remains can still be found in central Mexico City. The myth has endured – an image of a cactus-perching, snake-gobbling eagle can still be found on the Mexican flag today.



MAIN: **A painting shows Marseille as it may have appeared during its time as a Greek colony**

BELOW LEFT: **Roughly 2,600 years later, Marseille is now the second-most populous city in France**

3 MARSEILLE / FRANCE

Founded c600 BC by Greek settlers from the Western Anatolia city of Phocaea, the colony of Massalia is nowadays known as Marseille. This wasn't your standard invade-and-rule affair, though. On the wedding day of Gyptis (also known as Petta in some retellings of the story), the daughter of Nannus, the native Segobrigii people's chief, there was no clear groom. Instead, as was common practice, the princess was to choose her husband on the day from a willing brigade of suitors. Her decision came in the form of handing one of the potential grooms a bowl of wine during the wedding feast. This she did, passing the bowl to one of the Phocaeans, a sailor called Protis (also known as Euxenus). The union ensured peace between the locals and the Phocaean settlers, and the prosperous Mediterranean colony grew as a result.

4 ALEXANDRIA / EGYPT

Alexander the Great founded many settlements during his momentous reign, many of which he named either after himself or dutifully close allies. The most famous city bearing his name is undoubtedly Alexandria, the Mediterranean port on the Egyptian coast. Having landed in Egypt to extinguish the Persians, Alexander then sought to defend this new territory by building Alexandria. The idea had come to him in a dream, accompanied by particular words from Homer's *Odyssey*: "an island in the surging sea in front of Egypt, and men call it Pharos".

The Macedonian ruler Alexander the Great (*right*) is said to have founded the city of Alexandria after the idea appeared to him in a dream (*above*)

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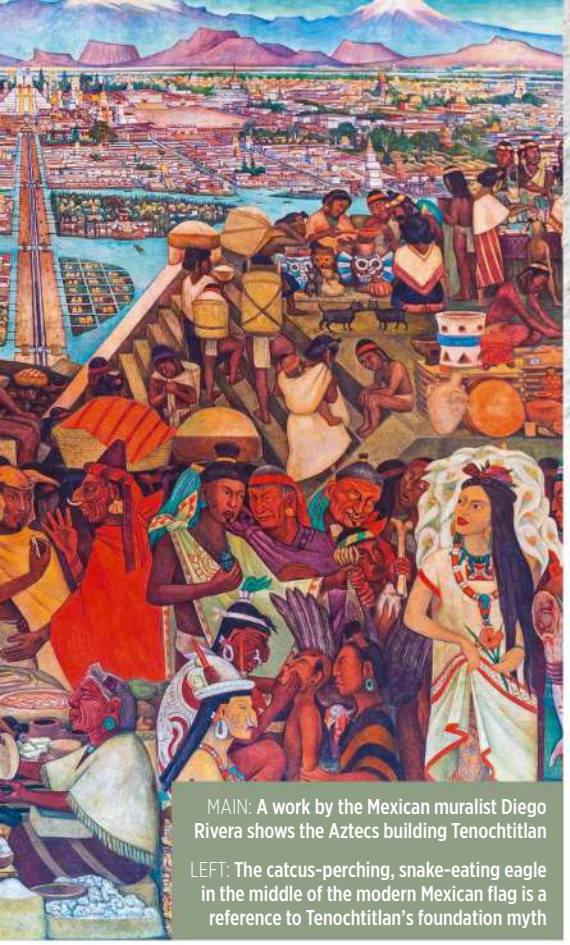

MAIN: A work by the Mexican muralist Diego Rivera shows the Aztecs building Tenochtitlan

LEFT: The catcus-perching, snake-eating eagle in the middle of the modern Mexican flag is a reference to Tenochtitlan's foundation myth

In 331 BC, Alexander chose an isthmus near the Egyptian settlement of Rhacotis as the city's location, but never got to witness its completion, let alone to appreciate its huge importance to the rest of the world. He died in 323 BC at the age of 32, long before his dream came to full fruition.

5 SURABAYA / INDONESIA

One of the legends surrounding the founding of Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, involves a premonition experienced by a 12th-century king named Jayabaya. Apparently possessing psychic powers, he foresaw a battle between a giant white shark and a giant white crocodile and interpreted it as a future invasion by white-skinned aggressors. Accordingly, he built the city as a means of defending his kingdom from future incursions, giving it a name that references his premonition – 'sura' meaning shark and 'baya' meaning crocodile. Jayabaya's apparent soothsaying would gain more credence five centuries later, when the Dutch started to occupy and colonise Indonesia.

A sculpture in Surabaya references King Jayaba's premonition – and, in turn, the city's quirky name

6 CUSCO / PERU

The Peruvian city of Cusco rose to prominence as the capital of the Inca, instituted as such by an evergreen myth. In search of a location from which his siblings could rule, a warrior named Ayar Awqa grew a pair of wings and flew to the site of the future city. In order to solidify his clan's claim to the land, Ayar Awqa was turned to stone. His self-sacrifice to the development of Cusco is commemorated in its name, one derived from the Inca phrase *qusqu wanka*, meaning 'rock of the owl'.

ABOVE: **Tbilisi is both the capital of Georgia and the country's largest city**

RIGHT: **A statue in Tbilisi dedicated to its founder, King Vakhtang Gorgaslani**

ABOVE: **The Peruvian city of Cusco as it appears today. According to Inca legend, the location was chosen by a winged warrior named Ayar Awqa**

MAIN: **The wall of an old Inca building on Cusco's Hatun Rumiyoc Street**

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7 TBILISI / GEORGIA

The Georgian capital Tbilisi was founded by the fifth-century King Vakhtang Gorgaslani of Iberia (Iberia being located where eastern Georgia is today). As the story goes, the king was hunting pheasants in a heavily wooded area, helped in this pursuit by his favourite falcon. The bird had successfully caught its prey, but the ensuing struggle saw both birds fall into a hot spring and perish from the scalding waters. Despite the loss of his falcon, Vakhtang Gorgaslani was impressed by the spring and ordered the forest to be cleared in order to build his new city, which he called *Tpilisi*, 'tpili' meaning 'warm'.

8 GNIEZNO / POLAND

The founding of Gniezno, Poland's sixth-largest city today, has its roots in a legend that has been told, in various versions, right across eastern Europe for many centuries. It involves three brothers – Lech, Czech and Rus – who one day set out together on a hunting trip. In pursuit of different prey, the trio split up and headed off in different directions, never to reunite. Rus travelled on a northeasterly route, Czech headed west and Lech ventured northwest. According to tradition, each founded separate Slavic regions.

On his particular journey, Lech encountered a white eagle, which was – against a backdrop of a setting sun – fiercely protecting its nest. Lech interpreted this as a positive sign, deciding to settle there and choosing *Gniezno* (meaning 'nest') as his new home's name. This Polish version of the tale has endured, with the white eagle remaining a symbol of Poland.

A popular legend suggests that different Slavic peoples can trace their origins to brothers Lech, Czech and Rus

RIGHT: The Parthenon was devoted to the worship of Athens' namesake, Athena

BELOW: Athena won the city's naming rights after beating Poseidon in a contest

9 ATHENS / GREECE

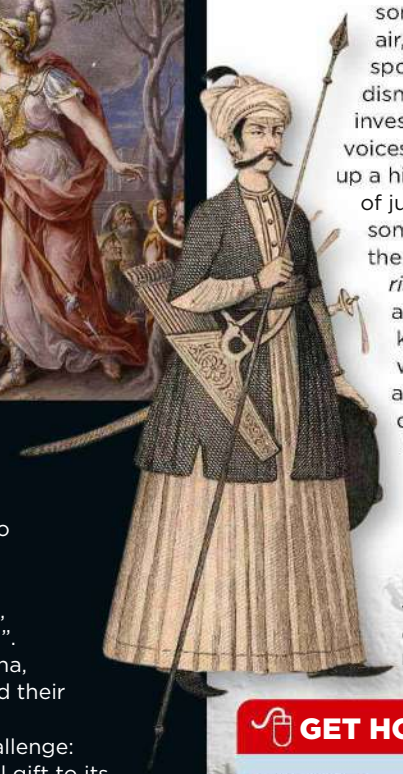
Believed to have been half snake, half man, Cecrops was the king who founded the city that would become known as Athens. Initially called Cecropia, the new settlement had yet to come under the protection of a god. There was, though, plenty of interest from particular deities, ensuring that the city would become, as Plato called it, "god-beloved". Both Poseidon, the god of the oceans and brother of Zeus, and Athena, goddess of war and wisdom, as well as being Zeus's daughter, offered their protection in return for what were effectively naming rights.

Fearing a war between his brother and his daughter, Zeus set a challenge: the city would be named after whichever god offered the most useful gift to its mortals, as judged by Cecrops. Poseidon banged his trident on the ground and water poured forth. But it was seawater, and fresh water already flowed freely in the city. Athena responded by planting something in the ground, from which an olive tree appeared. Cecrops viewed the tree's fruit and timber to be eminently more useful, and so Athena took the prize. Athens was born.

10 AYODHYA / INDIA

As established, a consistent theme of city foundation myths is their link to tales of hunting – and the story behind the creation of Ayodhya, northern India, is no exception.

As the legend goes, a king called Vikramaditya was once hunting along the banks of the Sarayu River when his horse stopped in its tracks and refused to move. The animal had heard some strange voices in the air, which had left it seriously spooked. Vikramaditya dismounted and went off to investigate the source of the voices, but as he fought his way up a hillside through a tangle of jungle, he came across some ruins hidden among the vegetation. Suddenly a *rishi*, a holy man, appeared and explained what the king had 'discovered'. They were the ruins of Ayodhya, a supposedly million-year-old city built by Manu, who some believed was the first human. Upon hearing this, Vikramaditya ordered that the city be rebuilt.



King Vikramaditya is said to have founded the city of Ayodhya on the site of million-year-old ruins

GET HOOKED

PODCAST SERIES

Paul Bloomfield explores the history behind the world's most famous metropolises in our podcast series *History's Greatest Cities*. Stream all 16 episodes now at *historyextra.com/greatest-cities*

WHAT GREAT PAINTINGS SAY

We unravel the mysteries behind a 17th-century portrait and its flamboyantly dressed, and as yet unidentified, sitter

The Laughing Cavalier

by Frans Hals, 1624

He is neither a cavalier, nor is he laughing, but that has not stopped the bright-eyed flamboyance of Dutch artist Frans Hals' most famous painting from charming audiences since it was first exhibited in 1872. With his broad, upturned hat, exquisitely coiffed moustache and sumptuous clothing, Hals' 26-year-old sitter exudes confidence, while his enigmatic smile could give Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* a run for her money. But who is the rosy-cheeked young man gazing out at us and how did he come by his unusual, not to mention inaccurate, moniker?

"The truth is that we don't know who the sitter is," says Bart Cornelis, curator of Dutch and Flemish paintings 1600–1800 at the National Gallery, London. "Several theories as to his identity have been put forward, including a Dutch cloth merchant named Tieleman Roosterman, whose face, some feel, bears a resemblance to that of *The Laughing Cavalier*. As to his nickname, that was given to him in 1888 and the work has never been renamed.

"The fact that the sitter has been depicted smiling is highly unusual," continues Cornelis, "and not something that many 17th-century artists would have attempted. Smiling and laughter are such ephemeral expressions that – even today, with the help of photography – it is very difficult to capture the right moment. Painting someone's smile is even harder, but Frans Hals was very special among portrait painters of the period: he had an amazing visual memory, combined with an incredible facility with the brush. He consistently excelled in capturing his subjects at precisely the right moment."

RESCUED FROM OBSCURITY

Frans Hals was born in Flanders, in modern-day Belgium, in the early 1580s but moved to Haarlem in the Netherlands when he was a small child. There, he embarked on a painting career that would later see him recognised as one of the greatest portrait painters in western art.

"Although Hals grew up in the Netherlands, there is a real Flemish influence to his works," says Cornelis. "Haarlem at this time was awash with wealthy Flemish immigrants who had moved north after Antwerp fell to Spanish forces in 1585 [during the Eighty Years' War], and many of these would have come to Hals to have their portraits painted. He became well-known locally for his incredible portraiture skills, and his ability to paint his subjects so true to life."

Despite being admired by later artists including Édouard Manet, John Singer Sargent and Vincent van Gogh – the latter famously writing of the Dutch artist's magnificent use of colour "[he] must have had twenty-seven blacks" – Hals was more or less lost to obscurity after his death in 1666. But he finally achieved international fame in 1865 when *The Laughing Cavalier* was purchased at auction by the 4th Marquess of Hertford, one of the founders of the Wallace Collection, the institution which still owns the painting. Lord Hertford paid a staggering 51,000 francs for the work – more than six times its estimate – outbidding Baron James de Rothschild and creating a media furore around the painting and the artist. Since then, *The Laughing Cavalier* has appeared in countless advertisements, plays and TV shows – the logo of McEwan's beer is broadly based on the portrait, showing him enjoying a pint!

"*The Laughing Cavalier* is one of those powerful paintings that you won't forget, and that's one of the things that makes it a masterpiece," concludes Cornelis. "I almost dread the day we find out who the sitter is – for me, the mystery makes the work even more beguiling." ⊙

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

GET HOOKED

The Laughing Cavalier is currently on show at the National Gallery, London, as part of an exhibition of works by Frans Hals – the first major retrospective of the artist in more than 30 years. For more information and to book tickets, visit *nationalgallery.org.uk*

1. INSCRIPTION
The Latin inscription reveals that the sitter is 26 and that the work was created in 1624.

2. SLASHED SLEEVES
The sitter's doublet would have been the height of French fashion, richly embroidered and boasting slashed sleeves through which we can see glimpses of snowy white linen.

3. SUMPTUOUS ATTIRE
The doublet is embroidered with emblems associated with fortune, strength, love and virtue – from a burning cornucopia to bees and arrows. The splendour of the sitter's attire indicates that he is most likely a bachelor.

4. DETAIL
Although the sitter's face has been precisely rendered – perhaps by his own request – the loose brushwork of the ruff and clothing are more typical of Hals' style, according to Cornelis.

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AETA SVAE 26
A° 1624

YANKEES & REBELS

Between 1861 and 1865, the United States was fractured by a brutal civil war. We delve into the archives to reveal the most striking images from the conflict – some of which have now been rendered in vivid colour thanks to modern technology

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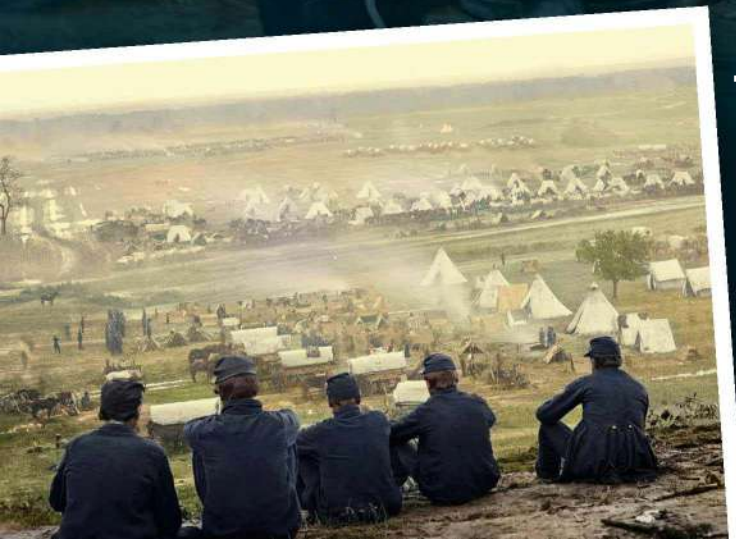


TROUBLED WATERS, 1862

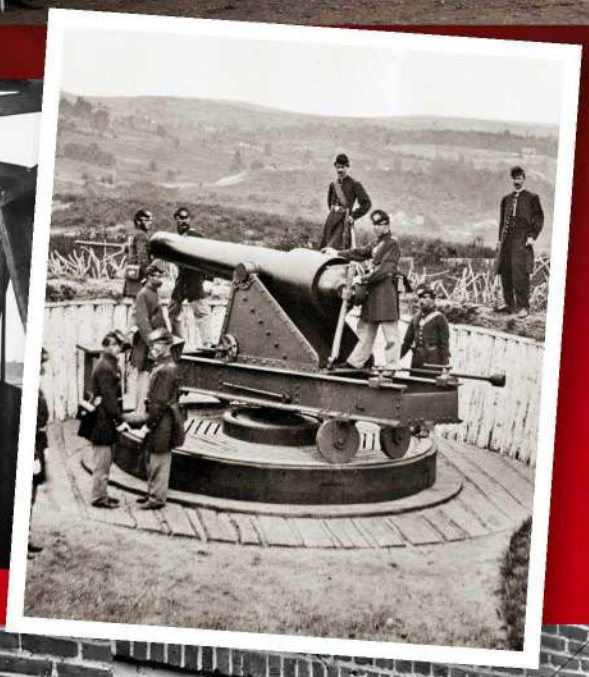
◀ Union soldiers gaze south across the Pamunkey River in Virginia from their camp at Cumberland Landing. The northernmost of the 11 Confederate states, Virginia was a key battleground throughout the war, especially when the city of Richmond replaced Montgomery, Alabama, as the Confederate capital.

TENT LIFE, c1861–62

▲ A typical scene from a Union camp – this one at Queen's Farm near Fort Slocum, one of the main defences guarding Washington DC. Women and children weren't just victims or onlookers during the conflict. They performed a variety of support roles, and some women even disguised themselves as men and fought on the front line.

HOLDING THE LINE, 1865

▶ Soldiers of the 4th Regiment of the US Colored Infantry pose for the camera at Fort Lincoln in Maryland. Established in 1863, the regiment saw much action in both Virginia and North Carolina. They were no anomaly: during the second half of the war, around 175 African-American regiments were in operation, providing nearly a tenth of the Union's manpower.



HEAVY ARTILLERY, 1862

◀ The Union army possessed greater military hardware than their Confederate counterparts, such as this heavyweight cannon at Fort Stevens – one of a number of defensive structures built to defend the city of Washington DC from enemy attacks.

BRIDGE OF SPIES, c1861–65

▲ The Potomac River marked a clear dividing line during the war, separating Confederate Virginia from Union Washington DC. Even as Union troops pushed their adversaries further south, they still had to ward against Confederate spies infiltrating the Union capital and collecting vital intelligence, hence their diligence here on a bridge crossing the Potomac.

DID YOU KNOW?

OUTNUMBERED

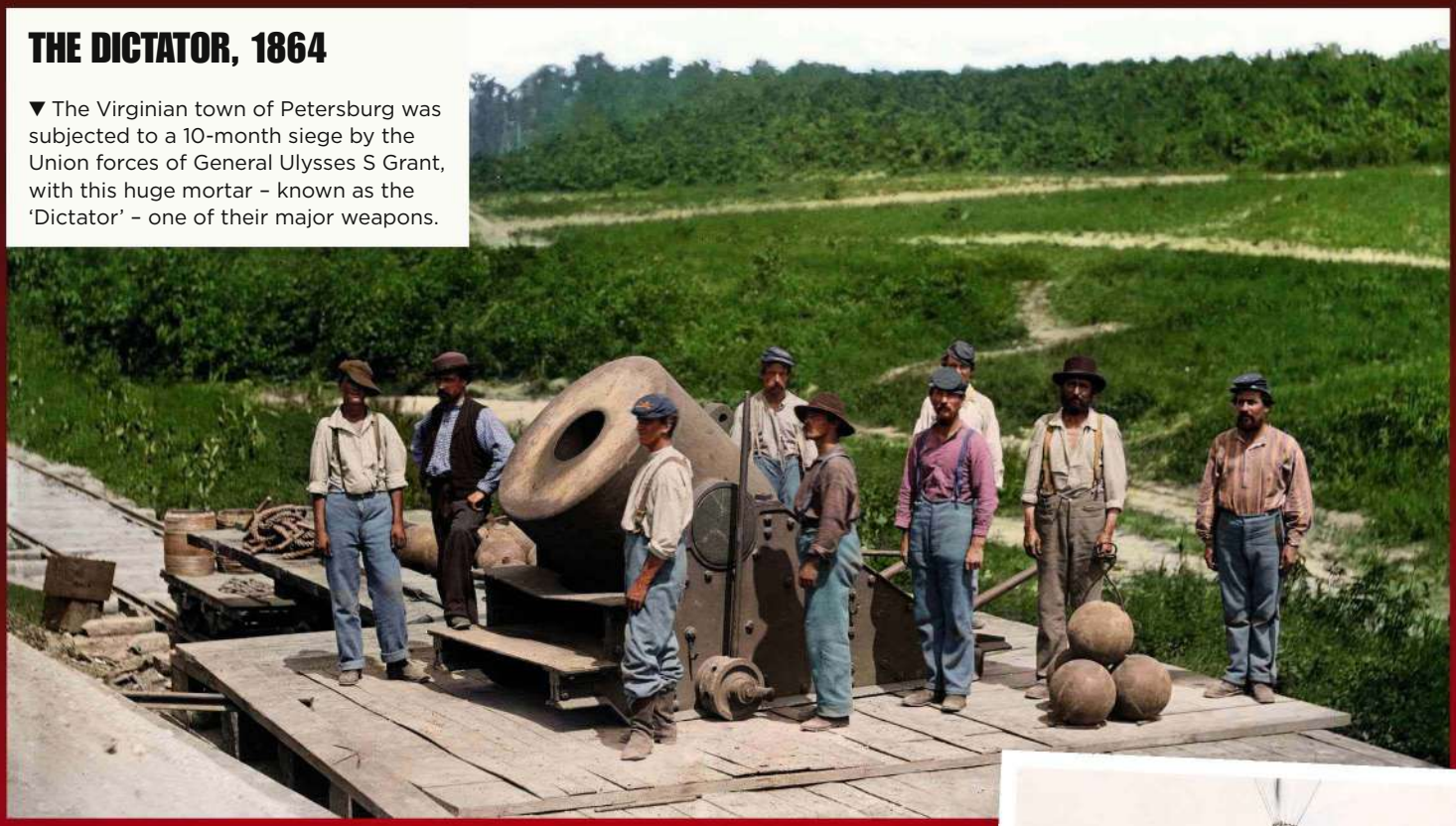
The Union army boasted more than 2 million soldiers over the course of the conflict, compared to the c900,000 of the Confederacy. Of those Union fighters, 200,000 were under the age of 18.

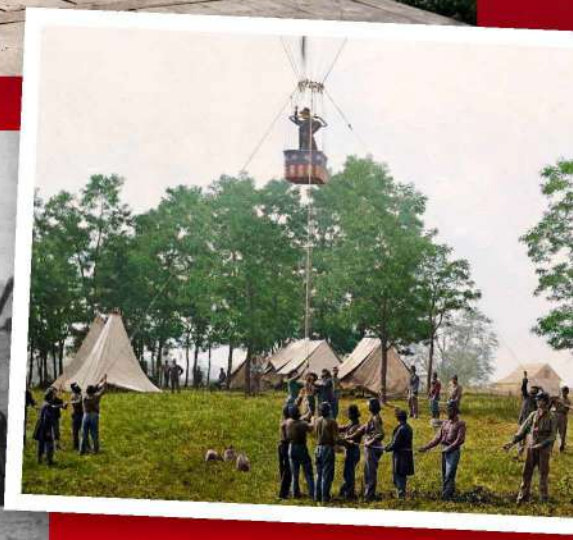
WALKING WOUNDED, 1862

▶ Survivors of the battle of Fredericksburg nurse their wounds at a temporary hospital. The battle was a five-day conflict in and around the Virginian settlement of the same name, at which the Union army was roundly defeated, suffering twice as many losses as the Confederates. It was described to President Lincoln as "butchery" by one eyewitness.

THE DICTATOR, 1864

▼ The Virginian town of Petersburg was subjected to a 10-month siege by the Union forces of General Ulysses S Grant, with this huge mortar – known as the 'Dictator' – one of their major weapons.





DID YOU KNOW?

LIFE AND LIMB

The left arm of Confederate general Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson has its own grave. After being hit by two bullets in a friendly fire incident, the limb required amputation and was subsequently buried in a cemetery in Virginia.

AERIAL MISSION, 1862

▲ Known as the father of military reconnaissance due to his role in co-founding the Union Army Balloon Corps, Professor Thaddeus Lowe takes to the skies in the balloon *Intrepid* to observe the battle of Fair Oaks.

UNDERWATER WARFARE, 1864

▲ An 1864 painting of the Confederate submarine HL *Hunley* by the artist, and member of the 59th Virginia Infantry, Conrad Wise Chapman. In February of that year, the submarine became the first to sink a warship in combat when it torpedoed the USS *Housatonic* at the entrance of Charleston Harbor. The *Hunley*, though, was also lost shortly after the attack.

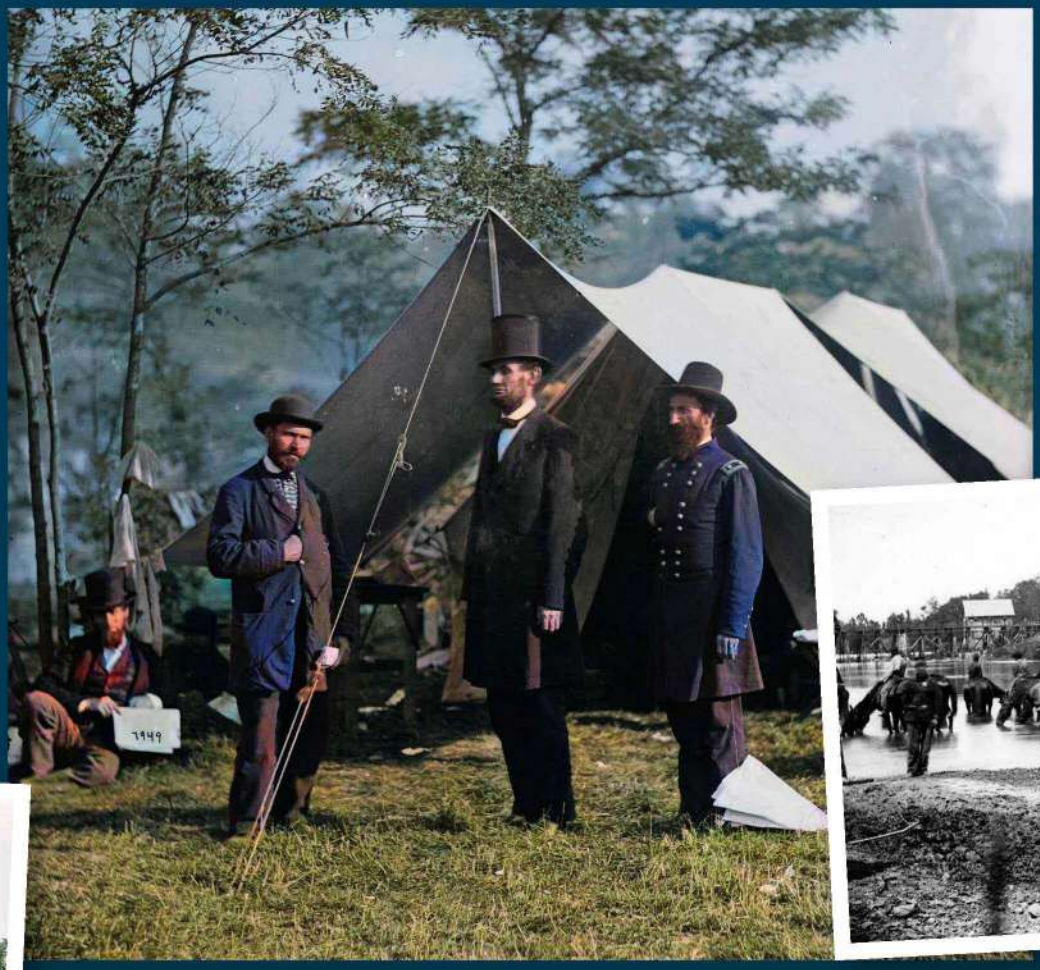
HUMAN COST, 1862

◀ With casualties numbering more than 22,000, the battle of Antietam remains the bloodiest clash in US history. The fatally injured Confederate artillerymen shown here were just a tiny fraction of those who lost their lives in Maryland that day.

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X4

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT, 1862

◀ A colourised image shows President Abraham Lincoln visiting the Union camp at Antietam, flanked by two of his closest associates – the secret service specialist/bodyguard Allan Pinkerton (*left*) and Major General John A McClernand. Lincoln had visited the camp in an attempt to persuade his generals to pursue Robert Lee's Confederate forces, who had retreated from the battlefield two weeks earlier.



MIGRATION PATTERN, c1861–65

▲ African-American refugees, displaced by the turmoil unfolding around them, travel in a bullock cart to escape the killing fields.

MOM'S ARMY, c1861

◀ Female volunteers – such as these White Mountain Rangers from New Hampshire – took up the Union cause by forming units of 'home guards'. As drilled and disciplined as their male counterparts, they weren't armed with rifles. Instead, their weaponry included sharpened sticks and brooms. ⊙

WORDS: NIGE TASSELL

GET HOOKED

LISTEN

Professor Adam IP Smith answers listeners' questions about the American Civil War on an episode of the *HistoryExtra* podcast. Listen in full at *historyextra.com/american-civil-war-qa*

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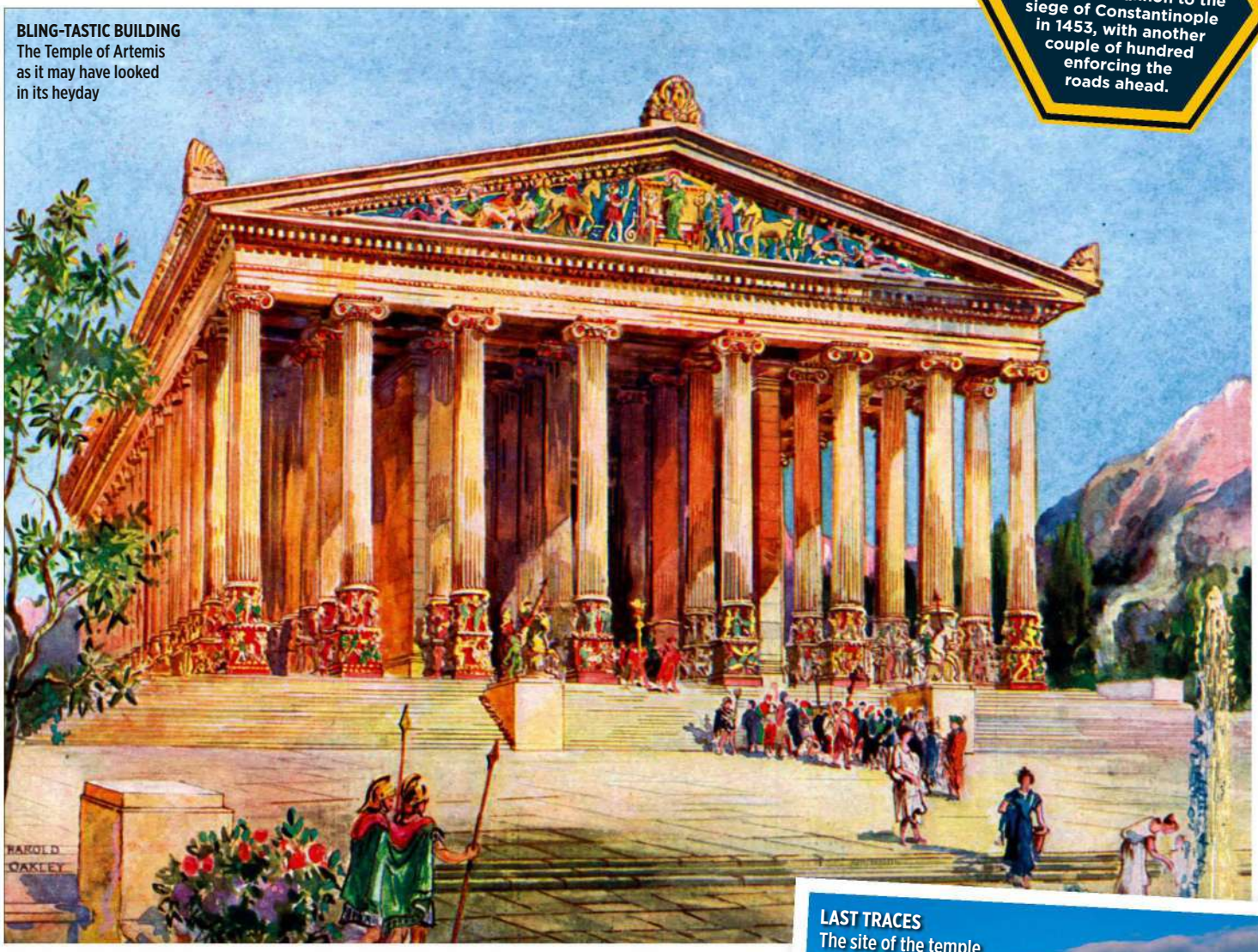
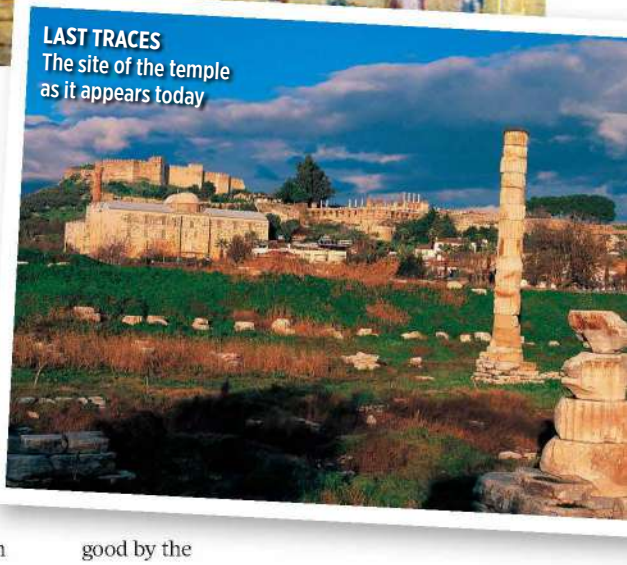
200
The number of men, along with 60 oxen, needed by the Ottomans to drag a 20-tonne cannon to the siege of Constantinople in 1453, with another couple of hundred enforcing the roads ahead.



BLING-TASTIC BUILDING
The Temple of Artemis as it may have looked in its heyday

ALAMY X2



LAST TRACES
The site of the temple as it appears today

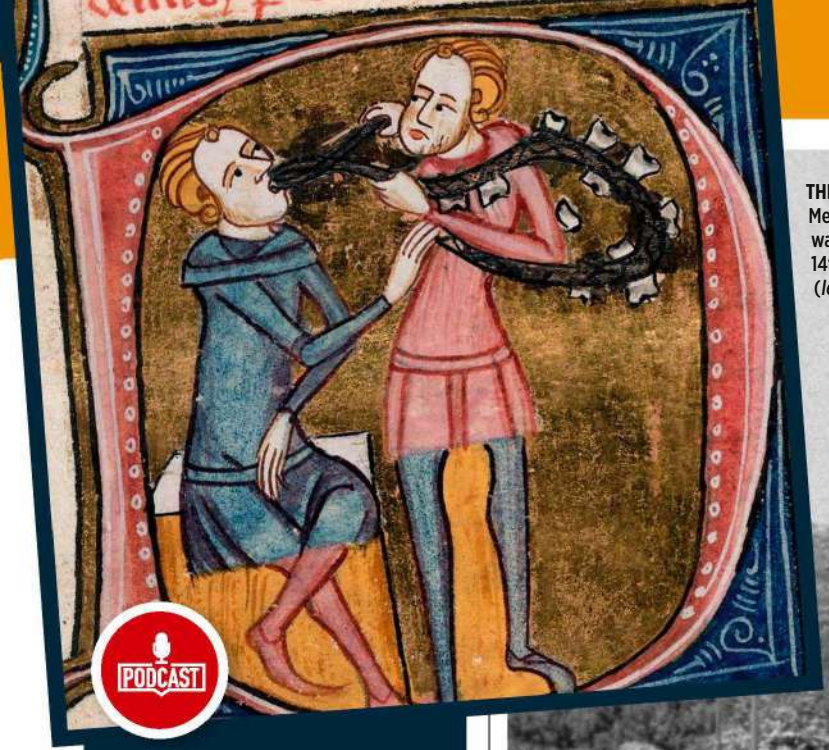
What happened to the Temple of Artemis?

SHORT ANSWER The Wonder's long history witnessed floods, enemy attacks and a bloke looking for his 15 minutes of fame

LONG ANSWER "I said, 'Lo, apart from Olympus, the Sun never looked on aught so grand.'" This was how Antipater of Sidon, the Greek poet who drew up one of the definitive lists for the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, described his personal favourite, the Temple of Artemis. The pride of Ephesus (in modern-day Turkey), it attracted people from far and wide bringing gifts for the goddess, seeking sanctuary or admiring the multitude of carvings and statues within its forest of 127 columns.

In truth, this was the third version of the temple. After the first structure was destroyed in a flood, the fabulously wealthy sixth-century BC king of Lydia, Croesus, had a more magnificent replacement erected. This, in turn, ended in ruins too. On 21 July 356 BC, a man named Herostratus set fire to the wooden rafters for no reason other than a desire to be famous. (It worked, admittedly.)

Again, the temple was rebuilt and stood for centuries more, eventually being destroyed for good by the early fifth century AD thanks to raids by invading Goths and Christians looking to wipe out all things pagan. Still, some of the columns lived on to be transported to Constantinople to form part of the Hagia Sophia.



PODCAST

THIS WON'T HURT AT ALL... Medieval tooth extraction certainly wasn't for the faint-hearted, if this 14th-century manuscript image (*left*) is anything to go by

Did medieval peasants have terrible teeth?

Answered by **Chris Dyer**, emeritus professor of history at the University of Leicester

Medieval peasants had surprisingly good dental hygiene. For example, a study of remains excavated from a churchyard in Wharram Percy, Yorkshire, found that 68 per cent of the individuals displayed signs of tooth decay – rather higher than some other communities at that time, but considerably lower than the rates of tooth decay found in Victorian remains, which range between 79 and 91 per cent. Peasants would not have held much stock in tending to things like toothbrushing and flossing, but although their teeth often bore unsightly calcified plaque, their oral health was surprisingly robust.

One key factor distinguishing them from later generations was their diet. Medieval peasants mainly consumed bread and porridge, devoid of the sugar-laden treats that became commonplace in later centuries. In an era before professional dentistry, only the medieval aristocracy would have had access to sugar. Therefore, its scarcity helped save the peasantry from tooth decay, making them seem less disadvantaged than we might expect.

▶ To hear more from Professor Chris Dyer on medieval peasants, visit *historyextra.com/peasants-pod*

1

The number of hills that the ancient city of Rome was built on: the Palatine, Aventine, Capitoline, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline and Caelian hills.

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X1

What was the public response to the 'Battle of Orgreave'?

Answered by **Robert Gildea**, professor emeritus of modern history at the University of Oxford

PODCAST

In 1984, an industrial dispute within Britain's coal industry led to a fierce standoff between members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government. As the miners' strike entered its third month, Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, organised a mass picket on 18 June at the coking plant in Orgreave, South Yorkshire.

Despite some disagreement over Scargill's strategy within the union, miners from across Britain converged. Upon arrival, they were surprised by how amiable the large police presence was. However, the picket soon descended into a violent clash, with heavily armoured and mounted officers swooping in to break up the gathering.

The scenes were shocking, reminiscent of a medieval battle, pitting miners in T-shirts and jeans against a formidable and organised opponent. Nevertheless, public opinion was significantly influenced by a media landscape largely sympathetic to the government's agenda. In an era when trade unions and striking workers were under intense scrutiny, the miners faced relentless vilification. Thatcher's branding of Scargill and the miners as the "enemy within" only deepened the animus. Some even argued that footage of the altercation had been manipulated to cast the miners as the instigators and vindicate the action taken by the police.

▶ To hear more from Professor Robert Gildea on the miners' strike of 1984–85, visit *historyextra.com/miners-strike-pod*

COALFIELD TO BATTLEFIELD
A picture taken on 18 June 1984 (*main*) shows police charging at miners outside the Orgreave coking plant – a sharp contrast to the light-hearted image on the right, taken at Orgreave a month earlier

FOLK HEROINE
A tribute to Manuela Beltrán in Socorro – a town long associated with her activities

Was Manuela Beltrán a real person?

SHORT ANSWER The revolutionary folk hero is everywhere in Colombia, except in the historical records

LONG ANSWER Bogotá has a university named after her; her hometown of Socorro proudly includes a statue of her; and across the country are the usual assortment of institutions and streets honouring her name. To this day, Manuela Beltrán remains a national heroine in Colombia for her role in a revolt against the Spanish in 1781.

Despite being a lowly shop owner, she could read and write – highly unusual for the time – and so was able to read an edict posted in the town square by colonial authorities raising taxes. Beltrán tore it to shreds and led the people in revolution.

That's where her story ends. Her fate is unknown. In fact, there is so little evidence of her life that it's doubtful that Beltrán even existed. The first mention of her as a revolutionary leader didn't appear until 1880, suggesting that she was the romantic invention of patriotic novelists, a symbol for a still-new independent Colombia.

75
The number of storeys of the Empire State Building that Betty Lou Oliver plummeted in a free-falling elevator – and lived – after a plane crashed into the New York skyscraper in 1945.

When did dogs first become pets?

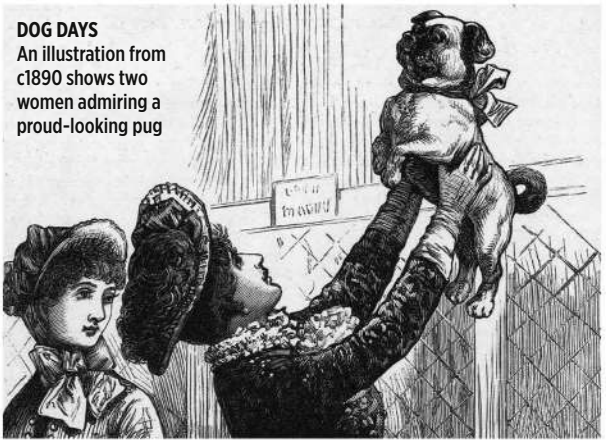
PODCAST

Answered by **Julie-Marie Strange**, professor of modern British history at Durham University

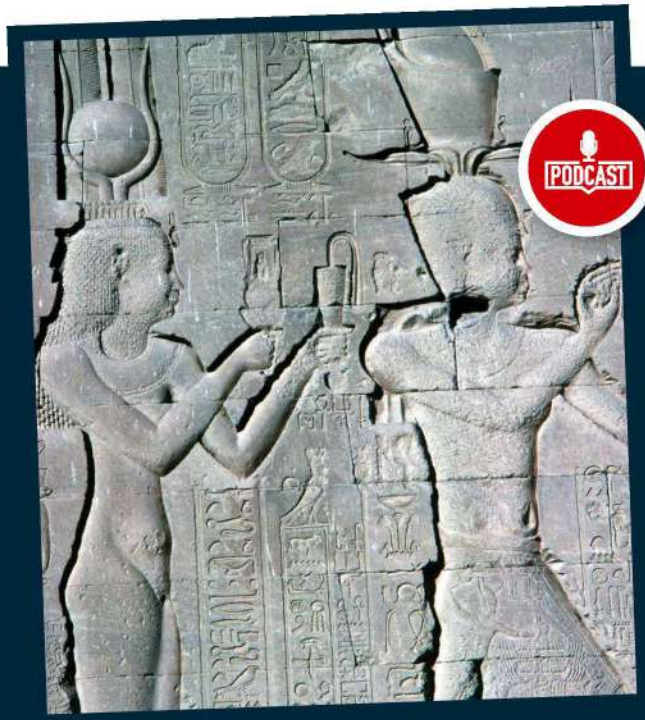
While some types of dogs had served as pets for centuries – particularly lap dogs bred for companionship – they didn't really become a staple of domestic life until the Victorian era. Up until then, dogs had mainly played dual roles as working and leisure animals, exemplified by the close relationship between shepherds and their sheepdogs.

Evidence of the growing consumer market for dogs can be found in Jane Loudon's 1851 book *Domestic Pets: Their Habits and Management*, which was the first pet manual to acknowledge that dogs – even if they lived outside the house – would often form emotional relationships with the house's inhabitants. Consequently, keeping dogs as pets became more widespread, and even if they maintained functional roles as guard dogs, they started to become embedded within family life as well.

▶ To hear more from Professor Julie-Marie Strange on the history of dogs, visit *historyextra.com/dog-pod*



DOG DAYS
An illustration from c1890 shows two women admiring a proud-looking pug



DIVINE PRESENCE
Cleopatra (*left*) depicted alongside her son and co-ruler, Caesarion

PODCAST

What did Cleopatra's contemporaries think of her?

Answered by **Joyce Tyldesley**, professor of Egyptology at the University of Manchester

Cleopatra, the alluring Egyptian queen, has long captivated the western imagination. She has consistently been depicted as a contemporary beauty, even though this assumption is unsupported by concrete evidence.

What truly set Cleopatra apart was her undeniable charisma. This, coupled with her position as the ruler of a prosperous kingdom, made her a formidable power broker, and she even tapped into Egyptian mythology to consolidate her position. Throughout her reign, she presented herself as the living embodiment of the goddess Isis, and her probable child by Julius Caesar, Caesarion, as Isis's son, the god Horus. This nurturing symbolism, at odds with western notions of her having been a femme fatale, would likely have resonated deeply with native Egyptians.

Overall, the queen's shrewdness, defined by her role as a mother raising the next pharaoh, suggests a canny operator beneath the popular image, challenging the narrative that often belies her true significance.

▶ Professor Joyce Tyldesley discusses Cleopatra on our new podcast series, *Great Reputations*: *historyextra.com/cleo-pod*

WIKIPEDIA-CASTELLANOS LÓPEZ X1, GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X1

PUTTING THE HOOT IN
It's said an owl once saved Genghis Khan, but the Mongols' love of the birds' feathers nearly caused extinction events

Why did the Mongols revere owls?

SHORT ANSWER Myths imbued the birds with protective powers, but nothing protected owls from the Mongols themselves

LONG ANSWER There is a myth about the early days of the Mongols, when they dwelt on a mountain range with one track out, but were too scared to travel since it ran through an old fortress from which came strange, surely eldritch, noises. That was until one day when a hunter approached the fortress and saw an owl on the gate, encouraging him to go inside. He quickly realised that the source of their fear had been wind rattling through the stonework.

The Mongols were free to begin an expansion that ultimately led to the creation of history's largest contiguous empire. As they did so, they revered the noble birds as spiritual protectors, adorning their hats with feathers. Another tale appeared too, of Genghis Khan himself being saved when an owl distracted the men pursuing him.

Yet with the growth of the empire came a colossal rise in the demand for owl feathers, which could only be satisfied by excessive hunting that drove whole populations of the birds nearly to extinction. "The Tartars [Mongols] return bad for good to their friend the owl," wrote a 14th-century missionary, "for while they say that they honour it, they kill it and skin it, and make for themselves crowns out of the plumage."

DID YOU KNOW?

OFF THE RAILS
While travelling by train on 23 May 1920, French president Paul Deschanel, hot and dazed from a sleeping pill, fell out of a window. Luckily, the train was going slowly. A railway worker found the president wandering the tracks.

OLDEST EXCUSE
John Steinbeck had been writing *Of Mice And Men* (1937) for two months when his dog, Toby, ate half the manuscript. "The poor little fellow may have been acting critically," mused the American author.

SPORTS DRINK
Gladiators in ancient Rome had to look after their bodies. Analysis of gladiator remains suggests they imbibed a drink made of the ashes of charred plants, rich in bone-strengthening calcium, mixed with vinegar.

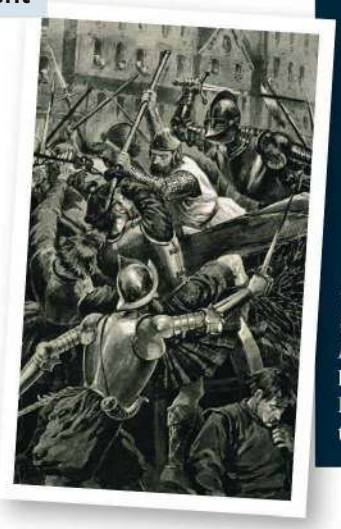
WHAT GOES AROUND...
In 1634, a Church of Ireland bishop, John Atherton, successfully called for "An Act for the Punishment for the Vice of Buggery". Six years later, he himself was tried and hanged for the crime of buggery.

Who sought to 'Cleanse the Causeway'?

SHORT ANSWER In 1520, road sweeping on Edinburgh's High Street meant something very different

LONG ANSWER Following the death of James IV in 1513, Scotland descended into political chaos as the infant James V sat on the throne while powerful adults around him vied for control. Two leading names in this struggle were Archibald Douglas, Earl of Angus, the new husband of the young king's mother, and James Hamilton, Earl of Arran, James IV's cousin and an influential member of the royal council.

Tensions between the two culminated in hundreds of soldiers facing off on High Street in Edinburgh and, on 30 April 1520, a bloody skirmish. Douglas won the day, with his men calling out "Clenze calsay", or 'Cleanse the Causeway' – in short, clean the streets of (Hamilton) filth. The fight for the throne, however, continued for years.



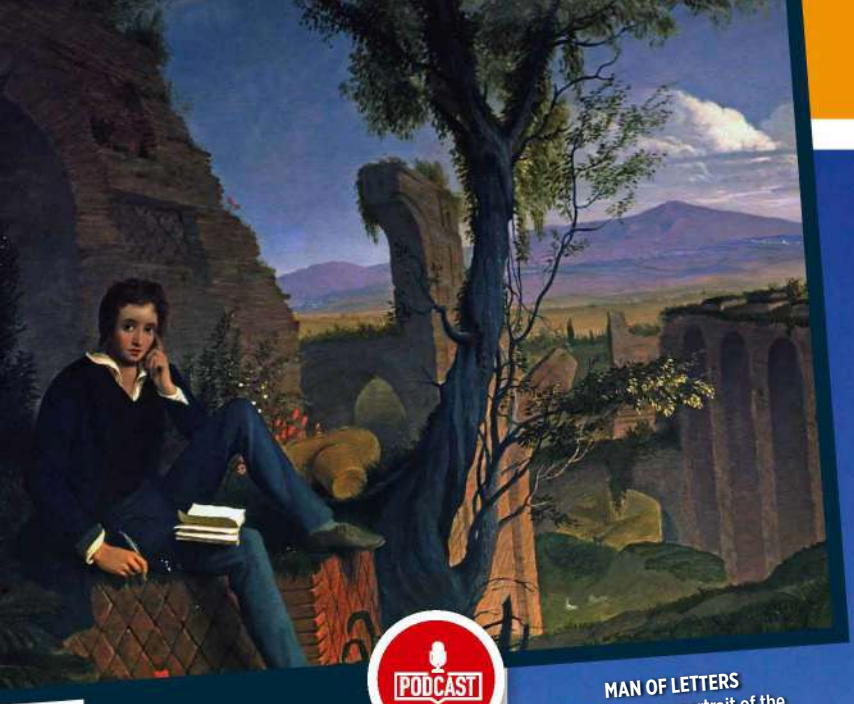
STREET-FIGHTING MEN
In 1520, followers of nobles James Hamilton and Archibald Douglas clashed in Edinburgh

When was the first Olympic doping disqualification?

SHORT ANSWER In 1968, when a Swedish pentathlete took a tipple

LONG ANSWER When an Olympic athlete is caught doping, it's rational to assume they've been taking performance-enhancing drugs. So spare a thought for Hans-Gunnar Liljenwall, who picked up the ignominious honour of being the first to be disqualified – for having a nerve-calming tipple.

At the 1968 games in Mexico City, the Swedish pentathlete had two beers to relax before the shooting event. Liljenwall was kicked out of the competition and his teammates had to hand back their bronze medals.



PODCAST

What was the Romantic movement?

Answered by Daisy Hay, professor of English literature and life writing at the University of Exeter

The Romantic movement emerged as a counterbalance to the prevailing neoclassical ideals of the early 18th century. This shift celebrated the individual's inner world, imagination and emotional depth. It also ushered in a profound connection with nature, emphasising the sublime beauty of landscapes. Romanticism redefined the political role of literature and art, infusing them with a sense of urgency in addressing societal issues.

Early Romantic poets such as William Blake, William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge paved the way, followed by a second generation of luminaries, which included Percy Bysshe Shelley, John Keats and Lord Byron. While the 'Big Six' dominated early perceptions of Romanticism, recent scholarship tends to acknowledge a more diverse group of thinkers, including Mary Wollstonecraft, William Cowper, Mary Shelley, Walter Scott and Gothic novelist Ann Radcliffe. Thus, Romanticism encompassed a broad spectrum of writers who challenged convention, and left an enduring mark on literature and art.

▶ To hear more from Professor Daisy Hay on the Romantics, visit *historyextra.com/romantics-pod*

MAN OF LETTERS
A posthumous portrait of the Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley at the Baths of Caracalla, Rome

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X2

0

Zero was unknown in the west when the Christian calendar was adopted. Dated from the supposed birth of Jesus Christ, the Anno Domini era commenced from 1 AD instead.

Who was Julia Balbilla?

Answered by **Dr Emma Southon**, author of *A History of the Roman Empire in 21 Women* (Oneworld Publications, 2023)

PODCAST

Julia Balbilla is one of the few female poets from the ancient world to have left her mark on history – literally. She was the granddaughter of a Syrian king from the Kingdom of Commagene (located in what is now Turkey), which had been forcibly incorporated into the Roman empire. Julia's upbringing spanned Athens and Rome, and her family's status is evident in her brother's grand mausoleum near the Athenian Acropolis.

It was through an audacious act of vandalism that Balbilla ensured she, too, would never be forgotten. While accompanying the emperor Hadrian and his consort, Sabina, on a tour of Egypt, they stopped at the Colossi of Memnon on the Nile's west bank from Thebes (modern-day Luxor). Erected nearly 1,500 years before and formed of two seated statues of the pharaoh Amenhotep III, one of them was reputed to 'sing' at dawn. Balbilla composed three epigrams to commemorate the imperial party's visit, which were then etched into the statue's legs. Written in an archaic script known as Aeolic, synonymous with the female poet, Sappho, Balbilla's verses immortalised their experience, flaunted her knowledge of history and myth, and proclaimed her complex Roman, Greek and Syrian heritage, of which she was clearly proud.

▶ To hear more from Dr Emma Southon on prominent imperial Roman women, visit *historyextra.com/roman-women-pod*

STANDING GUARD
The Colossi of Memnon can be still seen at the site of the ruined mortuary temple of Amenhotep III

GRAFFITI ARTIST?
Julia Balbilla scratched her verse into the legs of the Colossi of Memnon, which even then dated back nearly 1,500 years

FLIGHT PIONEER
Abbas ibn Firnas, as celebrated in a Dubai shopping mall

59
The number of regicides – of which Oliver Cromwell is the most well known – who signed Charles I of England's death warrant in 1649.

Who was the first person to fly?

SHORT ANSWER A ninth-century polymath proved humans could have wings... but not necessarily land

LONG ANSWER A millennium before the Wright brothers flew their aeroplane, eight centuries before the Montgolfiers launched their hot air balloon, and more than 500 years before Leonardo da Vinci even dreamed of human flight, there was Abbas ibn Firnas. Living in Islamic Spain in the ninth century, the engineer, musician, poet, astronomer and inventor built a set of wings using a wooden frame, silk and real feathers.

When well into his sixties, he put his contraption to the ultimate test by leaping from a mountain cliff. Much to his relief, the wings worked and he glided for around 10 minutes – although, his flight didn't have the best of endings as ibn Firnas crashed down with a heavy bump.

He spent the rest of his life studying birds, especially the relationship between the wings and tail in making landings softer, and designed flying machines – although his age and the injuries he sustained prevented another experiment in the skies.

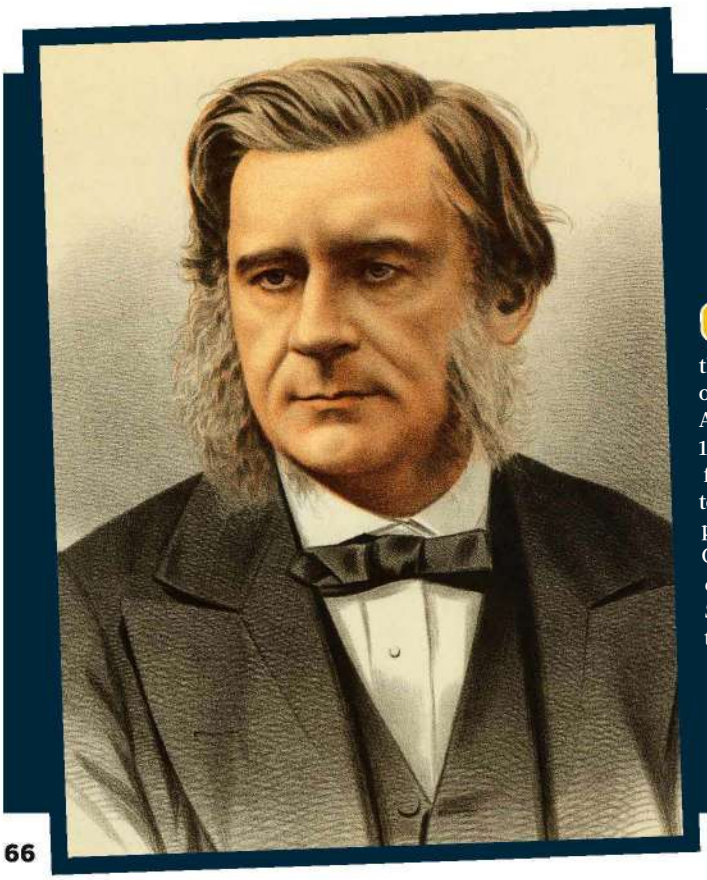
When did the Statue of Liberty turn green?

SHORT ANSWER The makeover took decades. (Insert old-fashioned joke about women taking ages to get ready here...)

LONG ANSWER At its dedication on 28 October 1886, the Statue of Liberty looked different to how we see it today. For one thing, people did not yet view it as a symbol of the United States and of welcome to millions of immigrants coming to the country via New York Harbor. The statue came from France as a gift, and when erected it had a shiny copper colour.

Through oxidisation, the copper became a dull brown and then started turning green. It is difficult to pinpoint when exactly, but newspapers began referring to its colour at the turn of the century, and by 1906 questions were being raised about whether the statue should be repainted. It wasn't, so definitely by 1920 Lady Liberty had taken on her now-iconic hue.

GOING GREEN
The Statue of Liberty was copper-coloured when she was brought to New York



Who was 'Darwin's bulldog'?

SHORT ANSWER The theory of evolution had real bite, but it needed someone with bark to make it heard

LONG ANSWER Nearly 500 people packed themselves into the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in June 1860, held in Oxford. The reason for the excitement was that a main topic would be the recently published work by the naturalist Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, and his controversial theory of evolution.

It did not disappoint. The bishop of Oxford, Samuel Wilberforce, and biologist Thomas Henry Huxley had a heated debate. The former taunted his opponent by asking whether the monkey from which he had evolved came from his grandmother or grandfather's side, to which Huxley responded that he'd rather an ape for an ancestor that someone who used cheap mockery in an intellectual forum.

Huxley proved an impassioned supporter of Darwin, and his efforts in that debate and beyond went a long way in spreading the theory of evolution. As such, he picked up the nickname 'Darwin's bulldog'.

NOT TO BE MUZZLED
Thomas Henry Huxley was a biologist and anthropologist who spoke up for Charles Darwin's ideas – loudly

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X2

FROSTY RELATIONS
Queen Victoria with her granddaughter Alexandra (*far left*) and grandson-in-law Nicholas II (*standing, left*) in 1896. Prince Edward, later Edward VII, is on the right

THE BRAVE FEW
RAF pilots dash to their aircraft, 1940. The Battle of Britain was a brutal fight for survival, with both countries' futures on the line

PODCAST

Why was Queen Victoria against marrying into the Romanovs?

Answered by Simon Sebag Montefiore, author of *The Romanovs: The Story of Russia and its Empire 1613–1918* **(Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 2017)**

Queen Victoria had serious misgivings about her relatives marrying into Russia's long-reigning Romanov dynasty. In her youth she had flirted with the handsome Russian tsarevich, the future Alexander II, when he visited London. They danced and she even entertained the idea of marrying him. But she quickly understood it was impossible, for many reasons, for a regnant queen of the British empire. Although her second-eldest son, Prince Alfred, did go on to marry a Romanov in 1874, the 1881 assassination of Alexander II made her question whether her grandchildren should do the same.

Victoria held a strong aversion to the tsar's absolute autocratic power, regarding it as barbaric. Religion was a bigger problem: tsars had to be Orthodox, British monarchs had to be Anglican. An equally big objection was that between 1815 and her death, Britain's great rival and enemy was Russia. Britain even invaded Russia in the Crimean War and nearly went to war again in 1877. It would only be in the early 20th century that relations began to thaw.

So when Victoria's beloved granddaughter, Alexandra of Hesse, wanted to marry the Russian heir, Nicholas Alexandrovich, in 1894, Victoria was vehemently against the match. But despite their loving marriage, Victoria's perception of the Russian court's treachery and precarity would ultimately be vindicated when Nicholas and Alexandra's reign ended in revolution and regicide.

▶ To hear more from Simon Sebag Montefiore on the history of Russia's tsars, visit *historyextra.com/tsars-pod*

Why was the waltz described as "depraved"?

SHORT ANSWER The hands-on dance came at a time that put the "strict" into "strictly come dancing"

LONG ANSWER The waltz is quite a few steps away from the seductive gyrating of *Dirty Dancing*, but when it emerged as the exciting new thing in the high society of 18th-century Europe, not everyone welcomed it. The dance was lively and required partners to be in close proximity, hand-in-hand, a dangerous mix in propriety-fixated times. Traditional souls denounced it as "depraved" or "riotous". A 1771 novel features a character who decries "the shameless, indecent whirling-dance of the Germans" where people "engaged in a familiarity that broke all the bounds of good breeding". Still, a touch of depravity just served to make the waltz more popular with each new generation.

A TOUCH TOO FAR?
The emergence of the "indecent" waltz caused consternation in 18th-century Europe

PODCAST

What are the three biggest myths about the Battle of Britain?

Answered by Dr Victoria Taylor, award-winning aviation historian

The first key myth about the Battle of Britain is the notion that the Luftwaffe held significant numerical superiority over the RAF. While the RAF initially trailed in fighter pilots and operational aircraft, both sides ultimately fielded about a thousand fighters in August 1940.

This leads to the second myth – the belief that Operation Sea Lion, the planned German invasion of Britain, was Hitler's ultimate objective. In fact, the Germans hoped to force Britain into seeking peace rather than attempting a risky amphibious landing. Sea Lion was a hazy, worst-case scenario.

Lastly, there is the idea that it was a 'gentlemanly joust'. While chivalry definitely existed, moments of inhumanity stand out, with British fighters downing German air-sea rescue planes and German gunboats targeting British rescue vessels. Far from a romanticised skirmish, it was a brutal fight for survival.

▶ To hear more from Dr Victoria Taylor on the Battle of Britain, visit *historyextra.com/battle-britain-pod*

WASHING DAY
Regency-style clothing on a line at Jane Austen's House in Hampshire

PODCAST

How sustainable was Jane Austen's wardrobe?

Answered by Hilary Davidson, author of *Jane Austen's Wardrobe* (Yale University Press, 2023)

Regency fashion was underpinned by a commitment to sustainability. The key to this lay in the profound respect for textiles as a precious commodity, a notion largely disregarded by today's disposable clothing culture. Jane Austen adopted an inventive thriftiness with her garments and maintained a written dialogue with her sister, Cassandra, where both frequently exchanged insights into dress alterations and repurposing. Austen would dye her attire, modify necklines and embellish gowns with different trimmings.

When an outer dress showed signs of wear, she transformed it into a petticoat, a versatile underskirt. This practice extended across society, as garments were either donated to the poor or cut down into smaller items. Even linen scraps found a second life, as they were recycled into paper via rag and bone men. Thus, Austen's novels, quintessential artefacts of Regency culture, were likely written on repurposed textiles.

▶ To hear more from Hilary Davidson on Regency fashion, visit *historyextra.com/regency-fashion-pod*

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X1

Who was the first archaeologist?

PODCAST

Answered by **Dr Hélène Maloigne**, lecturer in history at the University of Greenwich

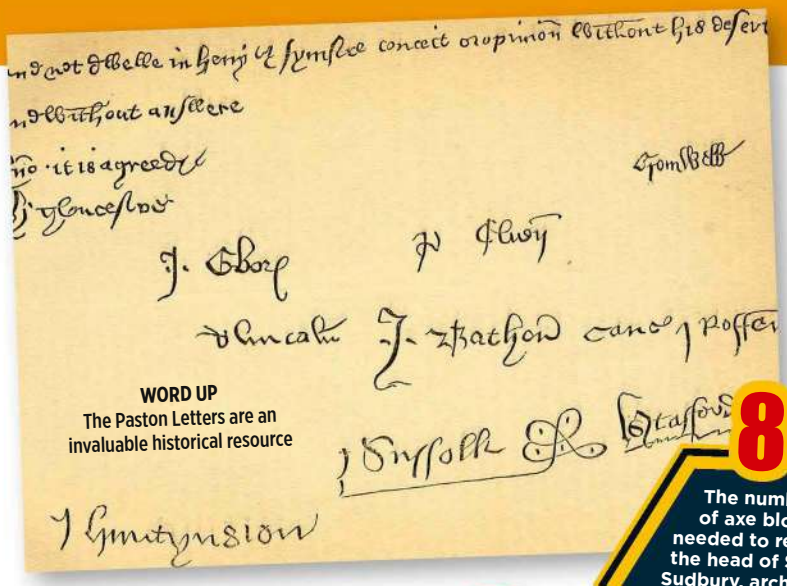
The identity of the 'first archaeologist' is a matter of debate and interpretation, as the term is a relatively modern one. History shows that people have always taken a keen interest in the past and there are individuals who are nowadays considered pioneers of archaeology. One, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman emperor Constantine, is sometimes referred to as the 'patron saint of archaeology' due to her recovery of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, although she didn't conceive of herself as an excavator, more a devotee to relics sacred to her faith.

To trace the roots of archaeology as a professional discipline, we often look to 17th-century Britain. Figures such as William Stukeley and John Aubrey took a keen interest in their local surroundings. Their work was closely tied to investigating the countryside, land-use patterns and human interactions with the environment. Notably, they made scholarly investigations of Neolithic sites in Wiltshire, such as the stone circle at Avebury, and embarked on the first archaeological investigations of Stonehenge.

When seeking the 'first archaeologists', it is these early trailblazers who set the stage for the development of archaeology as we understand it today.

▶ To hear more from Dr Hélène Maloigne on the golden age of archaeology, visit *historyextra.com/archaeology-pod*

CAN YOU DIG IT?
In the 17th century, pioneers such as 'natural philosopher' John Aubrey (*right*) pioneered the study of sites such as Avebury, Wiltshire (*above*)



WORD UP
The Paston Letters are an invaluable historical resource

8
The number of axe blows needed to remove the head of Simon Sudbury, archbishop of Canterbury, who was executed by rebels during the 1381 Peasants' Revolt.

What are the Paston Letters?

PODCAST

Answered by Dr Karen Smyth, Associate Professor at the University of East Anglia

From about 1380 to approximately 1730, the Paston family of Norfolk left an indelible mark on history via the written word. Their correspondence of more than 2,000 letters and documents, spanning more than three centuries, offers a unique window into the lives of everyday people beyond the courts of medieval and early modern England. They paint a vivid picture of the family's social ascent, legal wranglings and land holdings, as well as their personal details.

A matriarch and manager of the family estates, Margaret Mautby Paston, collected many of the medieval letters, recognising their legal, financial and personal significance. However, it wasn't until the Pastons' fortunes declined and the estate fell into ruin that an antiquarian stumbled across the cache, rescuing them from oblivion. Thanks to the efforts of collectors in the early 18th century, the Paston Letters gained recognition and have remained in print ever since.

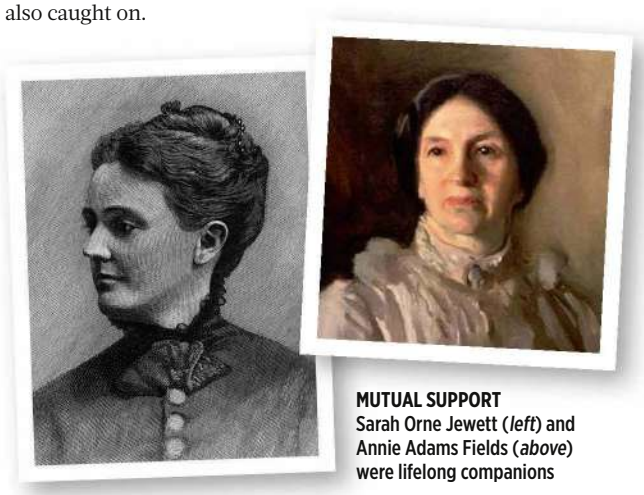
▶ To hear more from Dr Karen Smyth on the Paston Letters, visit *historyextra.com/paston-pod*

Why was it called a Boston Marriage?

SHORT ANSWER It seems fitting that the spiritual home for 'new women' is New England

LONG ANSWER Two women living together financially independent of a man was enough of a peculiar state of affairs in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that it merited its own term, a Boston Marriage. Sometimes, these were sexual or deeply intimate relationships hiding in plain sight, but women also chose this arrangement to maintain their freedom or protect careers, which would have had to be given up if they married.

The association with the eastern US city came about via the 1886 novel *The Bostonians* by Henry James, featuring a couple of so-called 'new women' of the age – women such as writers and lifelong companions Sarah Orne Jewett and Annie Adams Fields. Actually, this lifestyle became so prevalent among academic women at nearby Wellesley College that the term 'Wellesley marriage' also caught on.



MUTUAL SUPPORT
Sarah Orne Jewett (*left*) and Annie Adams Fields (*above*) were lifelong companions

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X3

Is there really a hieroglyph of a helicopter?

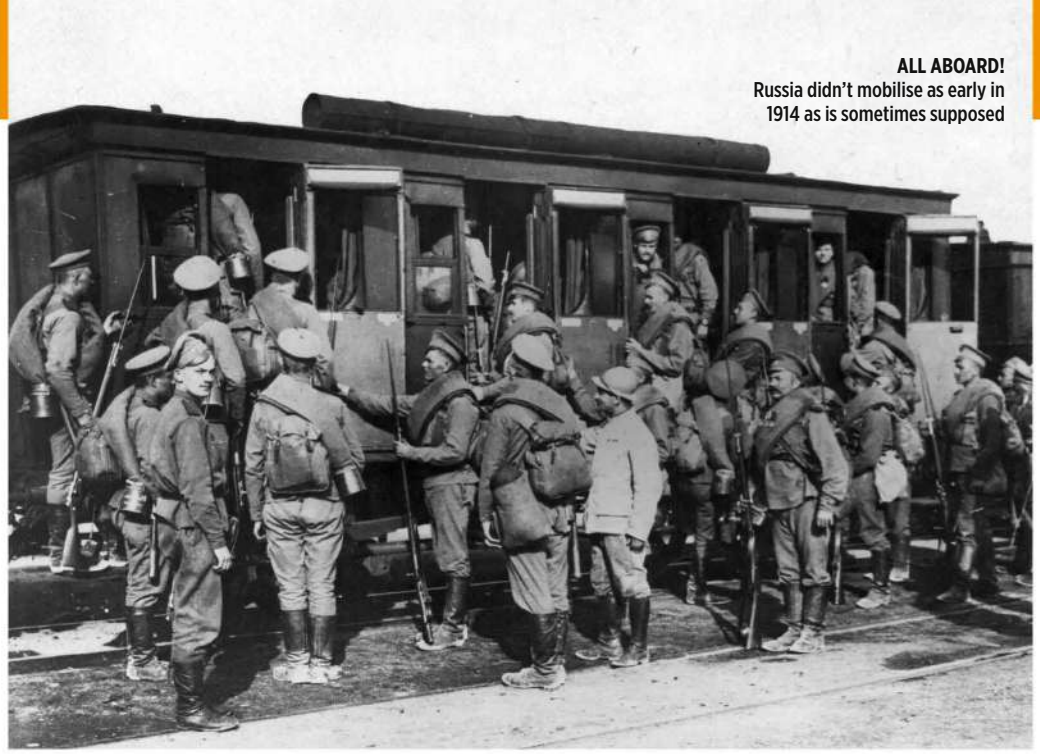
SHORT ANSWER Not only a chopper. The Egyptians knew what a light bulb looked like too, apparently

LONG ANSWER Visitors to the temple of Seti I at Abydos, Egypt, may be directed to an unusual collection of hieroglyphics. One symbol looks like a luxury yacht, another could be a rocket or a submarine and, the most eye-catching, at the top is a helicopter.

Only extraterrestrial contact could explain the hieroglyphics, it is said. Or indeed the pyramids. Or the relief at the Hathor temple at Dendera of what must surely be oversized light bulbs? Well, in fact, these bulbs show a creation story.

And as for the random transportation at Abydos, they are an example of palimpsest, where hieroglyphics from Seti I's time were plastered over and new ones carved under Ramesses II. The plaster eroded, leaving two sets of glyphs mashed together that just so happen to resemble the chopper from the 1980s television show *Airwolf*.

ALIEN IMAGES?
These hieroglyphics have been likened to a helicopter (*above*) and oversized light bulbs (*right*)



ALL ABOARD!
Russia didn't mobilise as early in 1914 as is sometimes supposed

Did the Russians secretly mobilise before World War I?

SHORT ANSWER It was neither secret (everyone knew what the Russians were doing) nor counted as mobilisation

LONG ANSWER On 28 July 1914, the Austro-Hungarian empire declared war on Serbia in response to the assassination of their archduke, Franz Ferdinand, by a Bosnian Serb a month earlier. Within days, Austria's ally, Germany, and Serbia's ally, Russia, had honoured their alliances and started mobilising for imminent hostilities. World War I had begun.

A common claim, which has cropped up in discussions about the outbreak of the war ever since, states that Russia began a not-so-secret mobilisation several days before the official date of 1 August. Rather than Germany as the aggressor, did the Russians in effect make the first move?

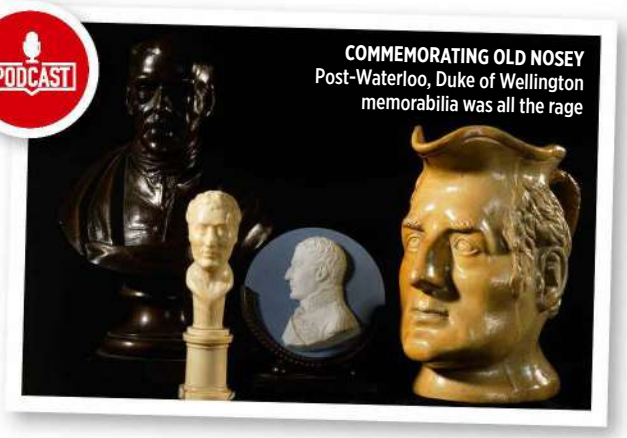
The historian Anthony Heywood can help answer that question. Having carried out extensive research in the Russian archives, he says, "It is absolutely clear that there was no secret general mobilisation before 31 July."

While the Russians did start putting things in place in readiness for a conflict, such as sending out plans for an impending mobilisation, they didn't actually make any mass troop movements or put the railways on a military footing. Preparatory measures were understandable and rational, but in the powder keg that was the July Crisis of 1914, Russia spooked Germany and Austria-Hungary, who escalated their own mobilisations.

What was Waterloo Blue?

Answered by Dr Luke Reynolds, assistant professor in residence at the University of Connecticut

PODCAST



COMMEMORATING OLD NOSEY
Post-Waterloo, Duke of Wellington memorabilia was all the rage

Following the battle of Waterloo in 1815, a whole host of peculiar commemorations swept the British public imagination. Among them was 'Waterloo Blue', a new hue, which quickly found its way into interior decoration, dresses and cravats. Although criticised as "godawful" by contemporaries, the dull indigo colour adorned the lining of the lord mayor of London's coach and even the royal family's box at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

And that wasn't all: everything from Waterloo-branded snuff to a Duke of Wellington door knocker went on sale, while 18 flower varieties and a cherry tree were all given the name 'Waterloo' in the battle's honour.

▶ To hear more from Dr Luke Reynolds on the myth and memory of Waterloo, visit *historyextra.com/waterloo-pod*

What is the Tiara of Saitaphernes?

SHORT ANSWER
While still a stunning piece of art, it just isn't an authentic piece of Greco-Scythian art

LONG ANSWER To the staff of the Louvre in 1896, the Tiara of Saitaphernes was sublime – a seven-inch-high, bell-shaped golden headdress given to the eponymous Scythian king of the third century BC. Elaborately decorated and in near-perfect condition, it had been quite the steal for the museum when they acquired it for the sum of 200,000 francs. The only problem was that it was brand new.

A master goldsmith named Israel Rouchomovsky in Odesa in the Russian Ukraine, had been commissioned by two phoney art-dealing brothers to make the tiara in the belief that it would be a gift for a person who adored all things Greco-Scythian. The well-researched and beautifully made finished product was then sold as the real thing without him knowing.

On hearing where it ended up, Rouchomovsky flew to France to inform the Louvre about their blunder, although they didn't believe him until he duplicated the tiara's designs as proof. ⊙

ALL THAT GLITTERS
Despite resembling a real artefact, the Tiara of Saitaphernes was actually clever fake

HISTORY EXTRA PODCAST

LISTEN
To access all the podcast episodes mentioned in this month's Miscellany section, visit *historyextra.com/miscellany* or scan the QR code

IT WOULDN'T BE
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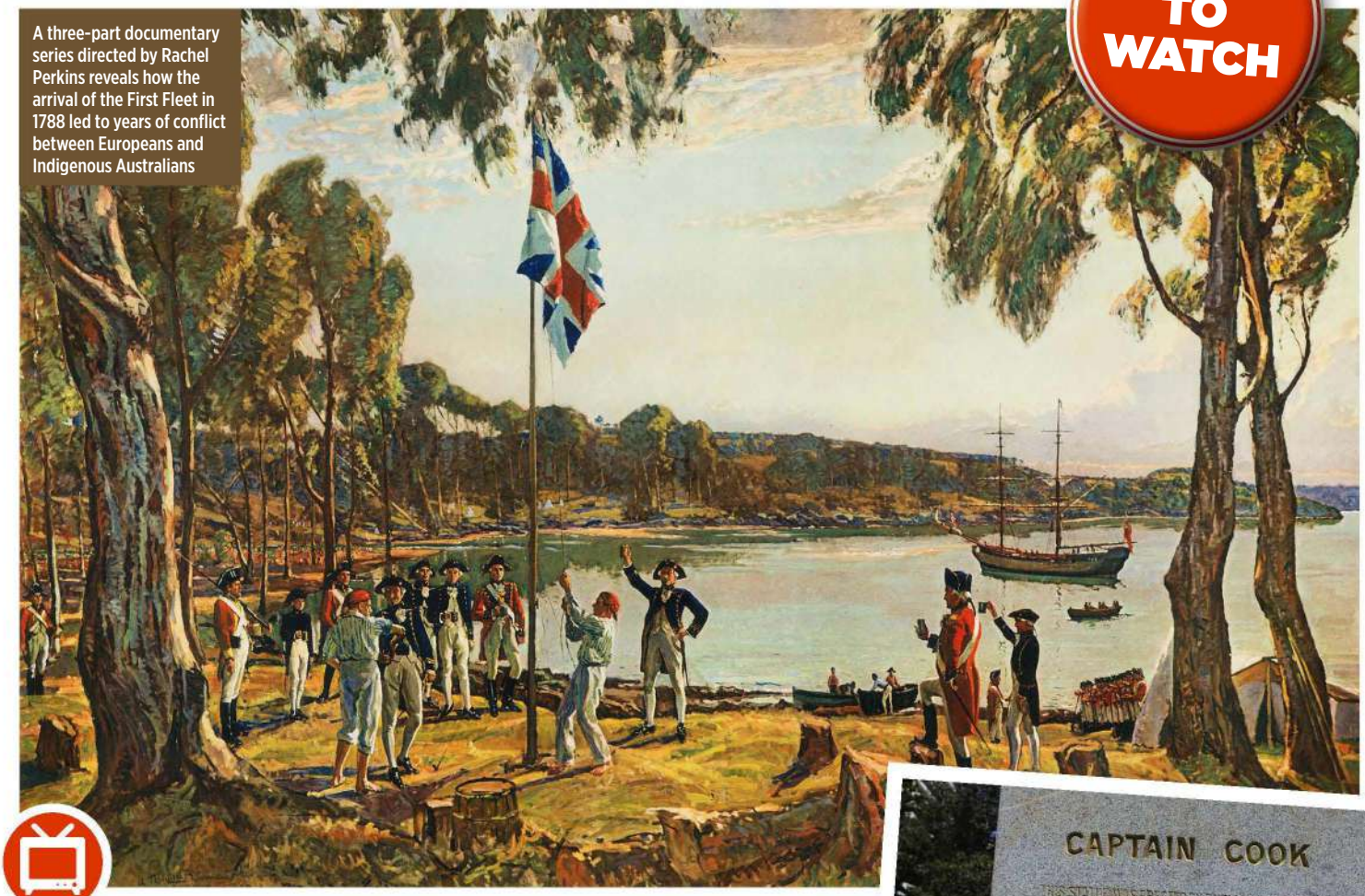
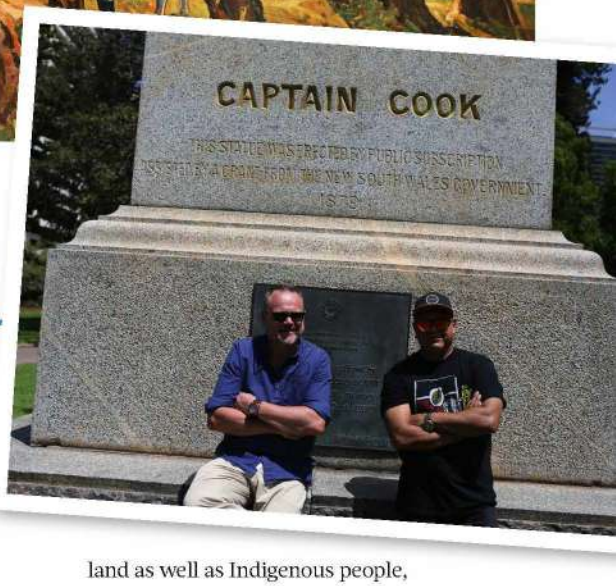
ONE TO WATCH



A three-part documentary series directed by Rachel Perkins reveals how the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 led to years of conflict between Europeans and Indigenous Australians



Al Murray (*left*) and Kevin Kropinyeri (*right*) also explore the wars in a new programme on Sky History

Forgotten conflict

The Australian Wars / BBC Four, starts Tuesday 7 November

One of the pervading myths of the British colonisation of Australia is that it was a matter of settlers spreading out across a vast and empty continent. In truth, what have come to be known as the Australian Frontier Wars raged for more than a century after the British established a penal colony in what's now New South Wales, in January 1788.

While the leader of the First Fleet, a flotilla of 11 British ships that made the long journey south, and colony governor, Captain Arthur Phillip, was instructed to "live in amity and kindness" with local people, there was tension from the off. Skirmishes resulted in casualties on both sides.

Deep into the first half of the 20th century, the violence would continue. While precise figures are hard to come by, it's estimated that more than 100,000 Indigenous Australians may have been killed, along with a minimum of 2,000 settlers.

Indigenous filmmaker Rachel Perkins is among those who thinks this story should be more widely known, and her three-part series accordingly traces events in and around Sydney, in Tasmania, and in Queensland. In great part, it's a narrative of guerrilla fighting in localised conflicts where war was never formally declared.

But this doesn't mean the violence was any less brutal. The history of the Australian Frontier Wars is peppered with tales of atrocities. While the newcomers may not have understood the land as well as Indigenous people, they had firepower on their side and they all too often used it indiscriminately. They also enlisted First Nations people to fight against their own.

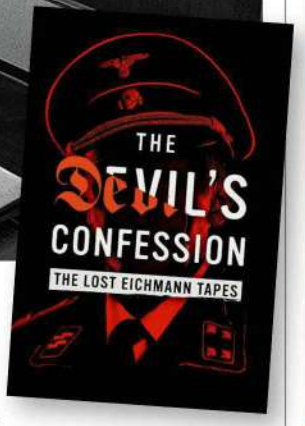
An episode on Australia in *Al Murray: Why Does Everyone Hate the British Empire?* (Sky History, a new series airing from Monday 23 October) also touches on the conflict. In the company of Indigenous comedian Kevin Kropinyeri, Murray visits the site of the Appin massacre of 1816, where troops drove First Peoples men, women and children over a cliff to their deaths.

GETTY IMAGES X1, SKY HISTORY X1

WEEKLY TV & RADIO
Visit ***historyextra.com*** for updates on upcoming TV and radio programmes

Mary Beard's new series profiles Marcus Aurelius (*depicted far right*), as well as some lesser-known Roman individuals

A powerful documentary film examines the atrocities committed by SS officer Adolf Eichmann, seen here in a glass box at the conclusion of his 1961 war crimes trial



Candid words

The Devil's Confession: The Lost Eichmann Tapes

BBC Two and BBC iPlayer, starts Sunday 22 October

In the wake of World War II, former SS officer Albert Eichmann languished in American custody. Sadly, despite being one of the chief architects of the Holocaust, Eichmann didn't remain there. Instead, using forged papers, he went on the run and succeeded in escaping to Argentina in 1950.

Eichmann lived modestly in South America until 1960, when Mossad agents snatched him from near his home in Buenos Aires. Not trusting the Argentinian authorities to grant extradition, the agents sedated Eichmann and smuggled him out of the country dressed as a flight attendant.

In 1961, he was put on trial in Jerusalem, which became a global media event.

At his trial, Eichmann's defence was familiar from previous trials of leading Nazis. He was an ordinary man who had no choice but to follow orders. It was all nonsense, as tapes from 1957 prove. These feature Eichmann talking with a Dutch journalist, Willem Sassen.

The man chatting with Sassen, himself a collaborator who joined the SS, is far from the unassuming figure who viewed his trial from a glass box. Instead, over recordings that initially ran to 70 hours, he boasts about his role in the Final Solution. Eichmann's antisemitism and lack of remorse is, even given his personal history, deeply shocking.

Directed by Israeli filmmaker Yariv Mozer, this two-part documentary features some of the surviving audio tapes. It also explores how prosecutor Gideon Hausner gained access to transcriptions of the tapes and their role in Eichmann's trial, and looks at what happened to the original recordings in the wake of Eichmann's execution by hanging in 1962.

Dramatic reconstructions show how Eichmann, portrayed by Eli Gorenstein (*far left*), boasted of his crimes on tape

Meet the ancestors

Being Roman with Mary Beard / BBC Radio 4, starts Wednesday 8 November

What was it like to live during the Roman era? It's a question that lies at the heart of Mary Beard's latest series as, over six episodes, she teases out individual biographies from the historical record. Both an emperor and a slave girl from Herefordshire, Regina, wife to a Syrian trader, Barates, are given equal weight as Beard looks for specific details to bring these figures from the past to life.

The opening programme, which focuses on Marcus Aurelius, gives a good idea of what to expect as Beard focuses not just on the familiar notion, reinforced for dramatic purposes in *Gladiator*, of a philosophical warrior. Instead, she offers a far more nuanced picture as she explores Aurelius's sometimes flirtatious relationship with his tutor and his capacity for violence in pursuit of power.

Rustin stars Colman Domingo (*above left*) as the US civil rights activist Bayard Rustin – one of the main organisers of the 1963 March on Washington (*depicted in the film, right*)

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Britain's greatest writer

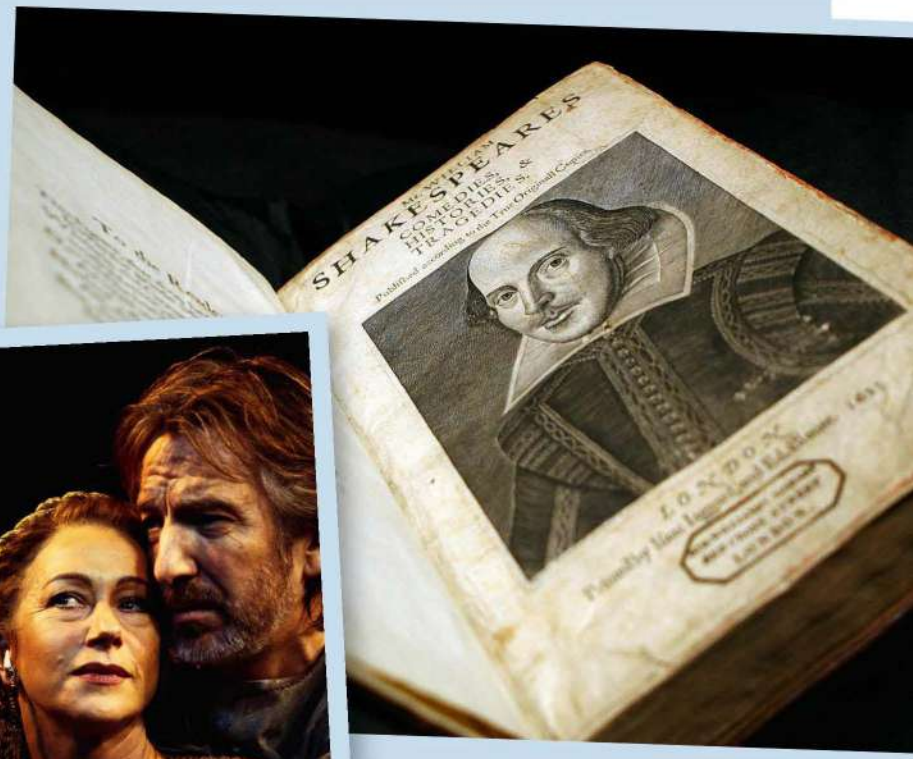
William Shakespeare: Rise of a Genius / BBC Two, starts Wednesday 8 November

If it hadn't been for the publication in 1623 of *Mr William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies*, better known as the First Folio, much of The Bard's work might have been lost forever. Instead, his plays, along with his sonnets, occupy a central role not just in British culture, but the country's wider history too.

Four centuries later, the BBC is marking the anniversary of the First Folio's publication with shows across its networks. Anchoring the season is *William Shakespeare: Rise of a Genius*, a three-part documentary series that features contributions from actors, including Dame Judi Dench, Dame Helen Mirren, Brian Cox and Adrian Lester, and writers and academics such as James Shapiro and Jeanette Winterson.

Elsewhere, highlights include a special edition, recorded before a live audience, of *You're Dead to Me* (BBC Radio 4, Saturday 4 November). The show finds Greg Jenner exploring Shakespeare's life in the company of Farah Karim-Cooper, professor of Shakespeare Studies at King's College London, and the comedian Richard Herring. Also on BBC Radio 4, there's a special edition of the arts show *Front Row* (Wednesday 8 November), in which Tom Sutcliffe and guests travel back in time to review the music, poems and plays of 1623. *First Folio* (Saturday 11 November) is a comedy-drama in which writer Mike Harris imagines the process of publishing the famous volume.

Over on BBC Radio 3, highlights include a day of music inspired by Shakespeare (Wednesday 8 November) and an adaptation of *The Spanish Tragedy* by Thomas Kyd (Sunday 12 November), the most popular drama of the Elizabethan period and a violent revenge story that heavily influenced *Hamlet*.



The BBC's season of programmes marking 400 years of the First Folio (*above*) includes the three-part series *Shakespeare: Rise of a Genius*. Among the contributors is Dame Helen Mirren, pictured left with Alan Rickman in a 1998 production of *Antony and Cleopatra*

Overlooked hero

Rustin / Netflix, streaming from Friday 17 November

Today, the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom is primarily remembered for the soaring oratory of Martin Luther King Jr. Yet without the work of a fellow civil rights activist, Bayard Rustin, King may never have got the opportunity to deliver his 'I Have a Dream' speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

That's because Rustin (1912–87), often working with labour activist A Philip Randolph (1889–1979), spent 18 months planning and organising the event. Logistically, this was a fiendishly difficult task – and that's before you factor in the febrile political atmosphere and ever-present threat of violence that surrounded the civil rights campaigns.

So central was Rustin, a man who rarely if ever backed down, to the success of the march that, in 2013, Barack Obama – co-producer of this new biopic through his Higher Ground production company – posthumously awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. As to why Rustin's role in what happened isn't better known, it's arguably at least in part because he was openly gay in a far from tolerant era.

Colman Domingo stars in the title role here, while Chris Rock heads the supporting cast as Roy Wilkins (1901–81), who in 1963 was executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

East meets west

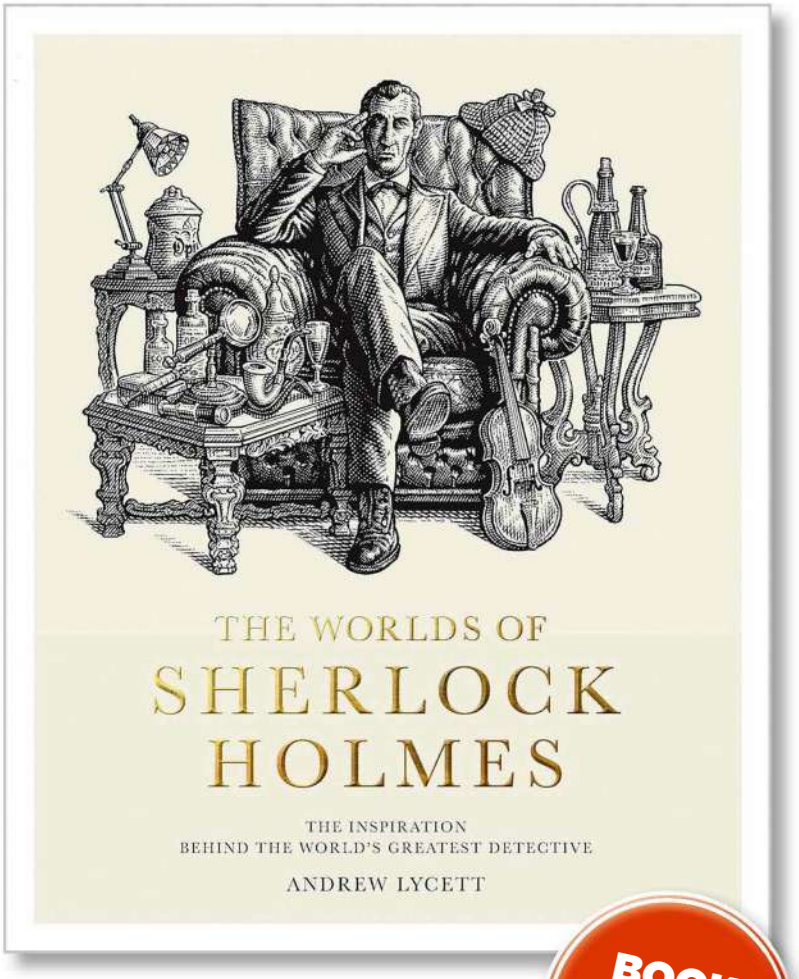
The Invention of Turkey / BBC Radio 4, starts Friday 27 October

The latest series in the consistently excellent *Invention* strand, a show that looks at both the founding myths of nations and the historical reality of what happened, finds journalist Misha Glenny (*pictured*) exploring the history of Turkey.

In the first of three episodes, Glenny is in Istanbul, a city that was renamed following its conquest by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1453, a prelude to an era when the perceived threat of the Ottoman empire was rarely far from the minds of those who ruled Europe.

BOOKS & PODCASTS

THIS MONTH'S BEST HISTORICAL READS AND LISTENS



BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Worlds of Sherlock Holmes: The Inspiration Behind the World's Greatest Detective

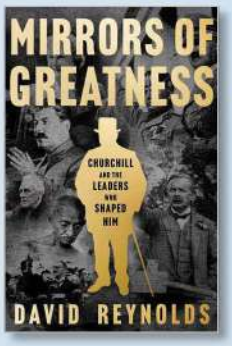
By Andrew Lycett
Frances Lincoln, £25, hardback, 208 pages

Pitting his extraordinary intellectual talents against an array of ne'er-do-wells, Sherlock Holmes has become one of literature's most famous figures. He is also, as this book explores, a fictional distillation of the passion for rationality that characterised the late 19th century, when Arthur Conan Doyle penned the novels in which he appeared. This elegantly produced visual history offers a look back at that age, and delves into some of the subsequent TV and film adaptations that have kept the 'consulting detective' in constant demand.

Mirrors of Greatness: Churchill and the Leaders Who Shaped Him

By David Reynolds
William Collins, £25, hardback, 464 pages

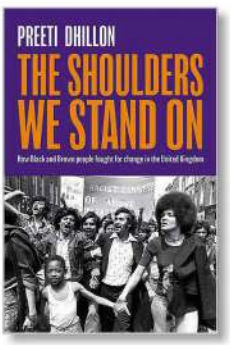
This compelling biography looks at Winston Churchill through the multifaceted prism of the figures who shaped him. It's a diverse cast list, in which political titans – Hitler, Gandhi, Mussolini – rub shoulders with his father and his wife. Fittingly, too, for a man who was very aware of the currents of the past, the final chapter charts the ways in which he set out to shape his own place in history. A lively new take on a man who continues to fascinate.



The Shoulders We Stand On: How Black and Brown People Fought for Change in the United Kingdom

By Preeti Dhillon
Dialogue Books, £20, hardback, 400 pages

Focusing on 10 historical moments in which black and Asian people fought back against racism, prejudice and oppression in Britain between the 1960s and 1980s, this book highlights the powerful role of collective action in changing the course of history. Ranging from Brixton to Bristol, Bradford to Southall, it surveys the forces and figures that forged a tumultuous period of Britain's history – and tells the stories of people who drew on enormous reserves of bravery and determination to forge social change.



A Northern Wind: Britain 1962–65

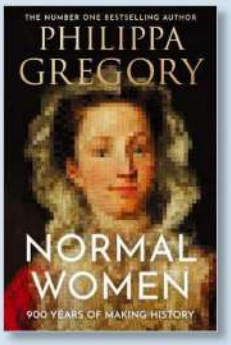
By David Kynaston
Bloomsbury, £30, hardback, 704 pages

David Kynaston continues his magisterial social history of postwar Britain with this look at the early 1960s. These were the years of the scandal at the heart of Tory government, the death of Winston Churchill, and the rise and rise and rise of the Beatles – and, causing ripples on the international stage, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the assassination of JFK. Kynaston traces them all in his customary accessible, entertaining style, offering an evocative picture of a period of enormous change.

Normal Women: 900 Years of Making History

By Philippa Gregory
William Collins, £25, hardback, 688 pages

Bestselling historical novelist Philippa Gregory describes her new non-fiction book as "a *huge* book about women" – and it really is epic in scope. Spanning the years 1066 and 1994, it explores the experiences of England's women in a vast array of roles and situations: workers and wives, rioters and royalty, murderers and mothers. It sets out to tell the stories of those who would otherwise be written out of history and, in the process, reassert their role in the nation's development.



FICTION

Wolves of Winter

By Dan Jones
Head of Zeus, £16.99, hardback, 416 pages

Historian, author and presenter Dan Jones returns to the world of historical fiction with this sequel to 2022's *Essex Dogs*. Again following the fortunes of a group of soldiers as the Hundred Years' War rages, this new novel picks up the story a year after the battle of Crécy. The action has moved to Calais, as the English army lays siege to the French port. But what are the real motivations behind the campaign? And what fresh crisis awaits?

PODCAST WHAT TO LISTEN TO...

Each month we bring you three of our favourite podcast offerings from the BBC and HistoryExtra

Great Reputations: series one

historyextra.com/great-reputations

Napoleon. Cleopatra. Gandhi. Some of history's most famous figures are both celebrated and criticised – so how can we make sense of their contested legacies? In this new five-part podcast series, pairs of expert historians debate their lives and afterlives, profiling the real people behind the myths and how we should see them now.

Short History of... The Great Fire of London

bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0g8c1g4

This series offering concise introductions to key historical events and figures ranges across time and space, surveying everything from Stonehenge to the Suez Canal. The first episode, chronicling the Great Fire of London, is a lively and dramatic affair, as Rebecca Rideal offers her take on the causes and consequences of the 1666 blaze.

Everything You Wanted to Know: Parliament

historyextra.com/parliament-pod

In this episode of *HistoryExtra*'s 'Everything You Wanted to Know...' series, Dr Stephen Roberts chronicles the history of Britain's Parliament, covering its biggest clashes, its larger-than-life figures, and its strange and arcane traditions. Also: is it really illegal to enter the Palace of Westminster wearing a suit of armour? Find out here...

BEST OF THE WEB

PODCASTS, VIDEOS AND QUIZZES FROM THE HISTORYEXTRA ARCHIVE

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VIDEOS

Did Ramesses II really have a passport?

historyextra.com/ramesses-video

In the 1970s, the mummy of Ramesses II arrived in France from Egypt for scientific tests. In this video, Egyptologist Toby Wilkinson debunks the notion that the long-dead king required a passport to travel.

Why is Cornwall called Cornwall?

historyextra.com/cornwall-video

Tim Hannigan explains the fascinating etymology behind the name of the peninsula at the southwestern tip of England, a land whose moniker reflects the complex and ancient heritage of the British Isles.

Is Eastern Europe disappearing?

historyextra.com/eastern-europe-video

Eastern Europe has been one of the most contested and diverse regions in history. But is it vanishing before our eyes? Jacob Mikanowski paints a picture of an area whose history testifies to its rupture and reinvention.

PODCAST SERIES

▲ 15 Minutes of Fame

historyextra.com/15-minutes

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the *HistoryExtra* podcast in 2022, we invited 15 historians to make a 15-minute-long case for individuals from history that they considered worthy of greater attention. From Queen Victoria's Yoruba goddaughter to an Aztec interpreter, meet some of history's most overlooked figures.

◀ Long Reads

historyextra.com/long-reads

Take a deep dive into the past as *HistoryExtra* brings you the very best of *BBC History Magazine*, Britain's bestselling history magazine. With a new episode released every Monday, enjoy fascinating and enlightening articles from leading historical experts, covering a broad sweep of the centuries – from the scandals of Georgian society to the horrors of World War I, revolutions, rebellions and more.

QUIZZES

▶ Quiz of the week

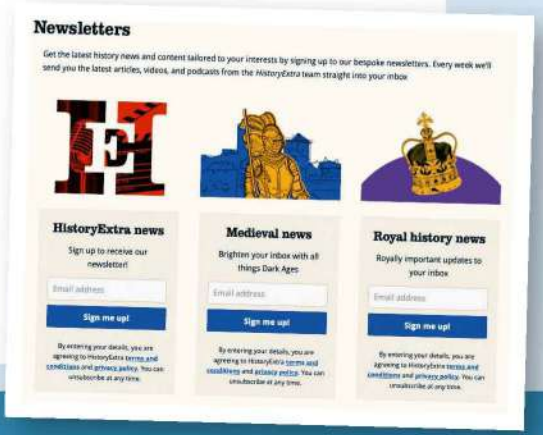
Put your knowledge of the latest history news, articles and videos from the *HistoryExtra* website to the test with our weekly brainteaser: *historyextra.com/weekly-quiz*

▶ How much do you know about Julius Caesar?

From his birth to his supposed last words, test your knowledge of the life and career of the Roman dictator: *historyextra.com/caesar-quiz*

THEMED NEWSLETTERS

▶ Whether you love ancient, medieval or royal history, get the latest history content tailored to your interests by signing up to *HistoryExtra*'s bespoke newsletters today. Each week you'll be able to enjoy expert articles, videos and podcasts delivered straight to your inbox. Sign up at *historyextra.com/newsletters*



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8 PODCAST EPISODES ABOUT WOMEN'S HISTORY

Want to learn more about women's history? We've rounded up some of the best *HistoryExtra* podcast episodes on the topic, featuring Joanna Wolfarth, Sarah Clegg, Kate Mosse, Elinor Cleghorn, Eleanor Janega, Jennifer Wright and more...

BREASTFEEDING

In this episode from February 2023, Joanna Wolfarth explains how social and cultural attitudes to breastfeeding have changed over time, touching on ancient baby bottles, the moral dangers of wet-nursing, and why the Virgin Mary was sometimes depicted with a breast on her shoulder.

FEMALE MONSTERS

Sarah Clegg joined us in March 2023 to discuss her new book, *Woman's Lore*, examining the ways that different cultures have portrayed female sexuality and motherhood in often ferocious and menacing ways. From sirens to succubi, she explains why these myths gained such traction.

COUNTRYSIDE CAMPAIGNERS

Back in summer 2022, historian Matthew Kelly joined us to tell the story of four remarkable women who helped to protect and preserve the English countryside from the 1870s through to the 1970s, battling to maintain public access to natural spaces.

MEDIEVAL WOMEN

Could plucking your eyebrows land you in Hell? Why did people believe older women's looks could kill? In this spring 2023 episode, Eleanor Janega answers listeners' questions about the lives of women during the medieval era – spanning everything from childbirth to partying.

MADAME RESTELL

In this spring 2023 episode, Jennifer Wright explores the story of the controversial New York businesswoman who amassed her fortune by offering birth control and abortions. Along the way, she considers 19th-century US attitudes towards motherhood and women more generally.

WOMEN WHO SERVED IN WW2

Recorded in 2022 to mark 80 years since the conscription of women, Tessa Dunlop presents the lives of the last surviving women who served in Britain's armed forces during World War II, answering what it was like to be young, female and at war.

FORGOTTEN STORIES

Kate Mosse spoke to us in December 2022 about her quest to uncover her great grandmother Lily Watson's forgotten life as a novelist, alongside a social media campaign, #womeninhistory, which culminated in her writing a book about some of history's 'forgotten' women.

WOMEN AND MEDICINE

From misdiagnoses to mistreatment, Elinor Cleghorn discusses the long history of women's health in this episode from July 2021. Focusing on her book, *Unwell Women*, she highlights some of the women who fought back against medical sexism.

HISTORY EXTRA PODCAST

To hear to these episodes, plus thousands of others covering a wealth of historical topics, visit *historyextra.com/podcast*. You can also listen on platforms such as Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

CROSSWORD

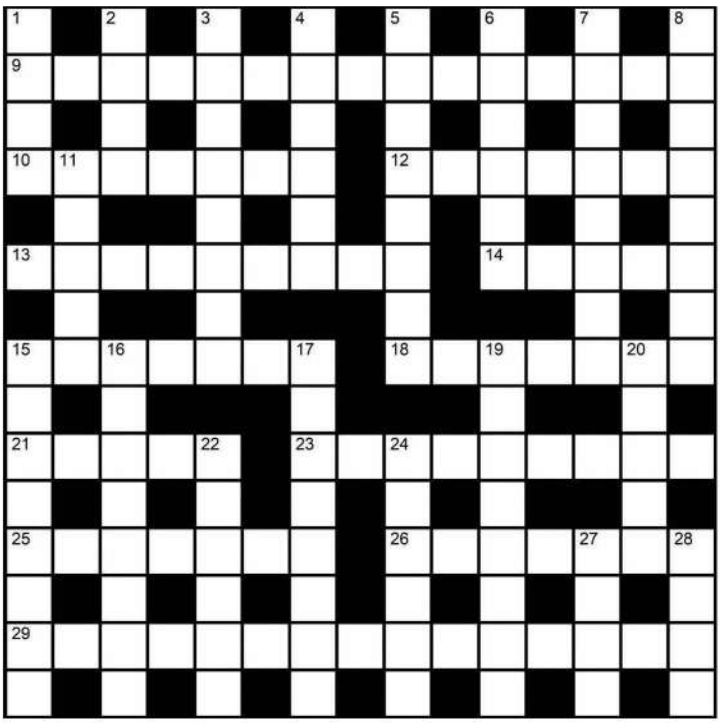
TEST YOURSELF WITH OUR HISTORICAL PUZZLE EVERY ISSUE

CROSSWORD No. 127

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

ACROSS

9 Rank in the Household Cavalry (8,2,5)
10 ___ Congress, 1848 political meeting in Prague (3–4)
12 Byname of Charles IV of France (3,4)
13 Ancient king of Babylon, known for his code of law (9)
14 Bishop of Rome who succeeded Saint Peter (5)
15 Members of the Society of Friends, founded in the mid-17th century (7)
18 Henryk ___ (1933–2010), Polish composer (7)
21 Ancient people of western South America (5)
23 Massachusetts island, formerly a whaling centre (9)
25 Roman senator (d42 BC) who plotted against Caesar (7)
26 Doris ___ (1919–2013), British-Zimbabwean novelist (7)
29 1817 novel by Jane Austen (10,5)

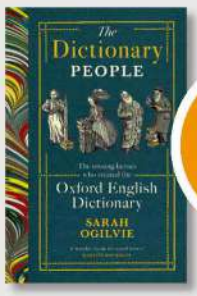


Set by Richard Smyth

DOWN

1 Russian name for the USSR (initials) (1,1,1,1)
2 Sir Christopher ___ (1632–1723), English architect (4)
3 City in the south of France, home to a university founded in 1229 (8)
4 Baltic state led by Jānis Čakste from 1918 to 1927 (6)
5 West Sussex town, known for its historic pier (8)
6 Yiddish term for a town with a predominantly Jewish population (6)
7 Historic county of southern France (8)
8 Goffredo ___ (1904–2003), Italian composer (8)
11 Islet group in the south Pacific, formerly known as the Duke of York Group (5)
15 Ancient Roman coin marked with five dots (8)
16 Heritage; lineage (8)
17 New York City prison opened in 1826 (4,4)
19 Jean-Jacques ___ (1712–78), Geneva-born philosopher (8)
20 Yves ___ (1928–62), French painter in the Nouveau réalisme movement (5)
22 The ___, rock band founded in Manchester in 1982 (6)
24 Dennis ___ (1945–2018), Scottish serial killer (6)
27 Long-range weapon developed during the Cold War (initials) (4)
28 Francisco ___ (1746–1828), Spanish painter (4)

CHANCE TO WIN



BOOK WORTH £22 FOR THREE WINNERS

The Dictionary People
by Sarah Ogilvie

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **BBC History Revealed, December 2023 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester, LE94 0AA** or email them to **september2023@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 January 2024**.

By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *BBC History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.
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SOLUTION Nº 125

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The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of ***BBC History Revealed***) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy. The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company London Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company London Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up.
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CROSSWORD WINNERS

The three lucky winners of the prize crossword in issue 124 are as follows:

H Griffiths, Hampshire
R Honeybone, West Sussex
B Whitlock, Northamptonshire

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *Pax: War and Peace in Rome's Golden Age*, by Tom Holland.

We will post your prizes out as soon as possible.

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PHOTO FINISH

ARRESTING IMAGES FROM THE ANNALS OF THE PAST

FIND THE GAP 1940

During both world wars, the London Underground served as a vital refuge during air raids. However, in early World War II, the authorities were reluctant to allow people to shelter on platforms because of fears over disrupting commuter and troop travel. The sheer ferocity of the Blitz led to a rethink and Londoners were once again allowed to hunker down on Tube platforms. Scenes of jovial or sleeping civilians, like this photograph taken at Elephant and Castle, have since become emblematic of the so-called 'Blitz spirit'. There was even a 'Tube Refreshments Special' train service to cater to the public's needs as life underground became commonplace. Despite a subsequent lull in attacks, Tube stations were once again used as shelters in 1944 because of Germany's deployment of *Vergeltungswaffen* – or 'revenge weapons' – in the form of V1 flying bombs and V2 rockets.

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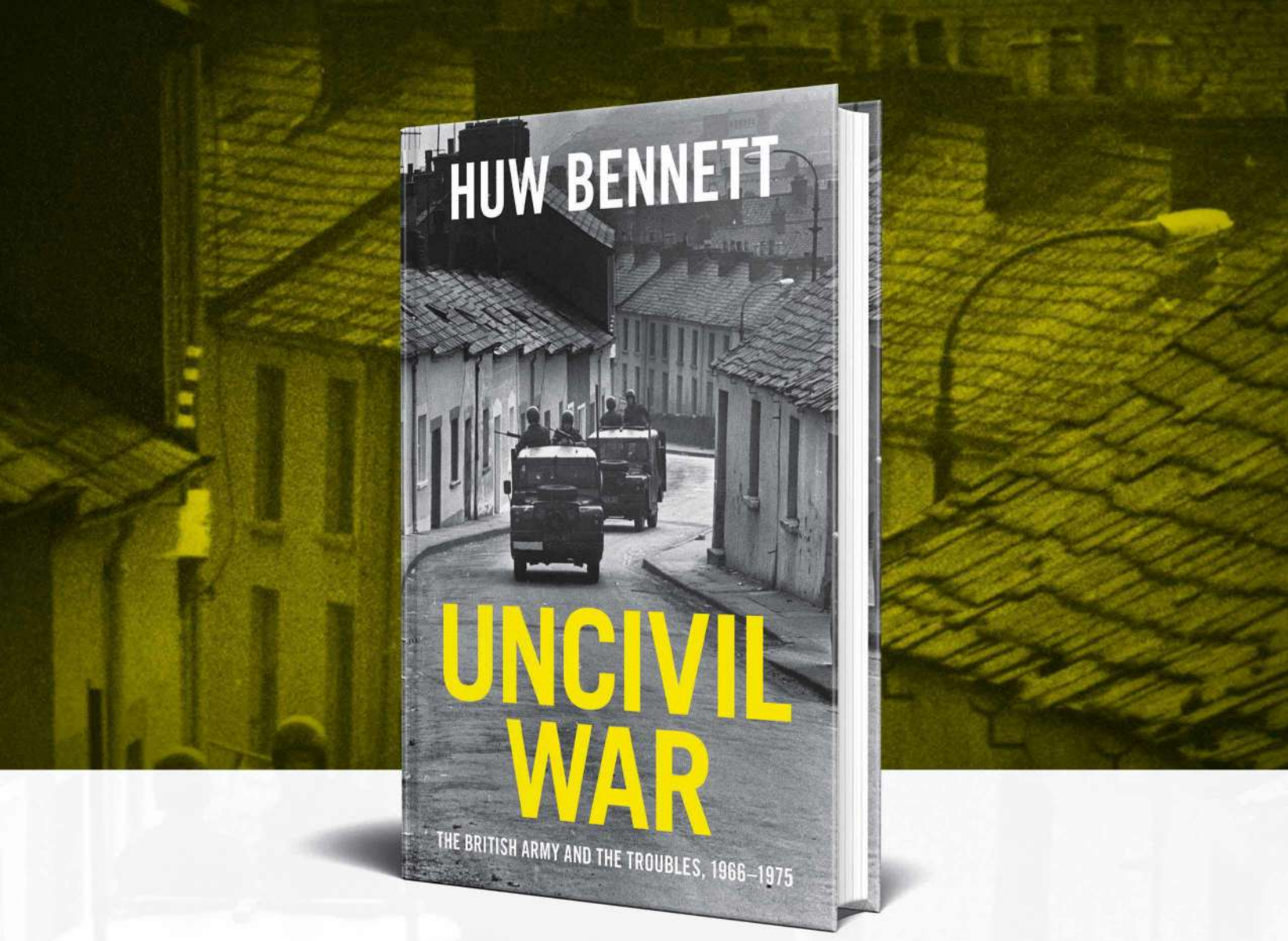

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